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*John Smith*

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# The Records OF THE Borough of Northampton.

TWO VOLUMES,

*Illustrated.*

PREFACE BY

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON,

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER ON THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN BY

W. RYLAND D. ADKINS, B.A.,

*Late History Exhibitioner of Balliol College, Oxford,  
Barrister-at-Law.*

THE FIRST VOLUME EDITED BY

CHRISTOPHER A. MARKHAM, F.S.A.,

*Hon. Sec. Northamptonshire Architectural Society,  
Author of "The Church Plate of the County of Northampton," &c.*

THE SECOND VOLUME EDITED BY THE

REV. J. CHARLES COX, LL.D., F.S.A.,

*Author of "Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals," &c.*

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CORPORATION

OF THE

COUNTY BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON.

1898.

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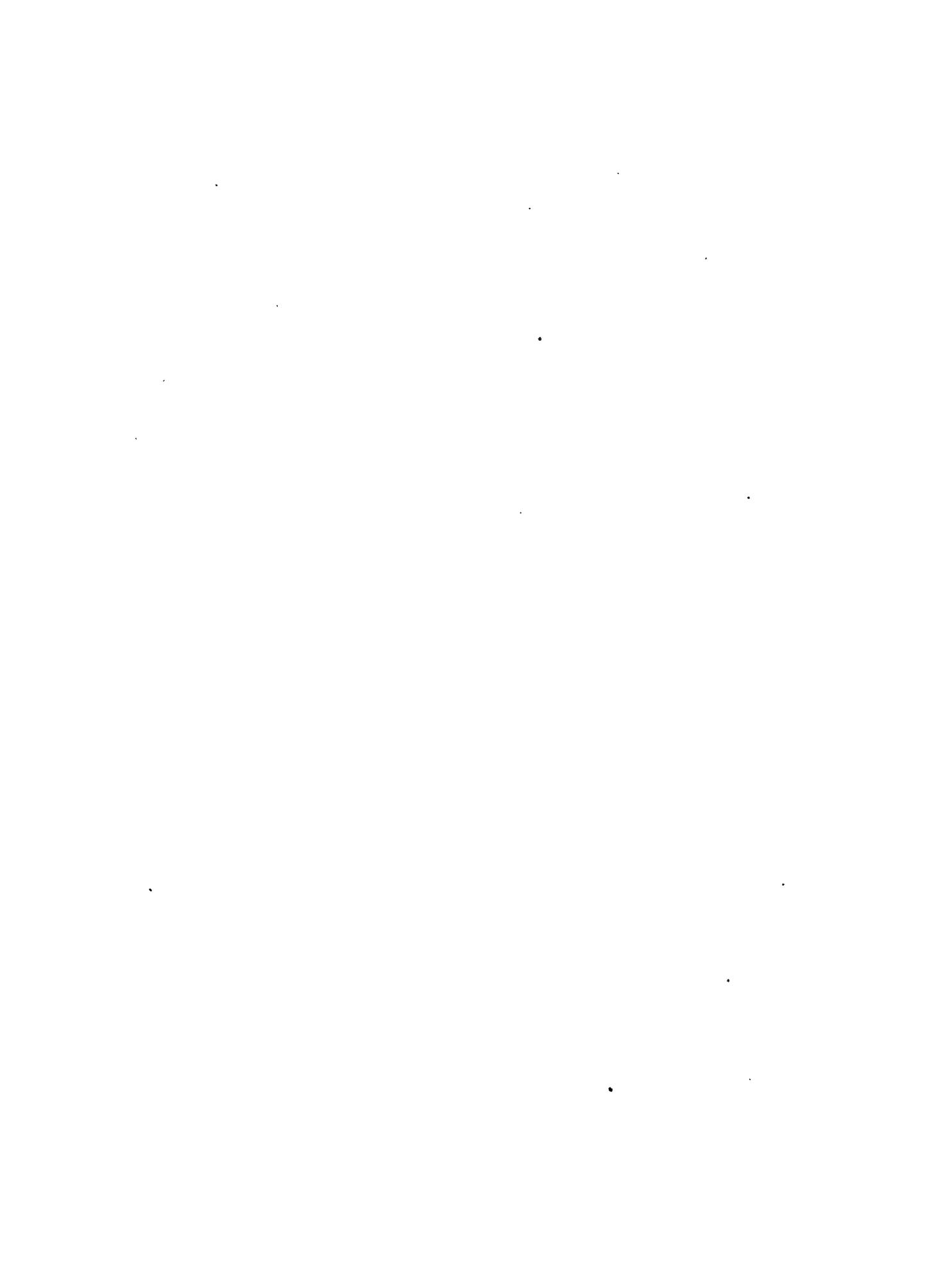
## GENERAL CONTENTS.

### VOLUME ONE.

	PAGE
PREFACE, BY THE BISHOP OF LONDON ...	iii.
INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER, BY W. RYLAND D. ADKINS ...	ix.
DOMESDAY BOOK ...	1—6
THE GREAT ROLLS OF THE PIPE ...	7—24
CHARTERS, LETTERS PATENT, AND ACTS OF PARLIAMENT ...	25—195
LIBER CUSTUMARUM ...	197—430
LIST OF ACTS OF PARLIAMENT ...	433—448
LIST OF COUNCILS AND PARLIAMENTS ...	449—455
LEGAL NOTES ON THE LIBER CUSTUMARUM, BY T. GREEN ...	457—478
GLOSSARY ...	481
INDEX OF SUBJECTS ...	497
INDEX OF PERSONS ...	500
INDEX OF PLACES ...	508

VOLUME TWO.

	PAGE
PREFACE ... ... ... ... ...	iii.
INTRODUCTION ... ... ... ..	1—9
CIVIC GOVERNMENT AND STATE ... ...	11—99
CIVIC JURISDICTION ... ... ... ..	101—149
TOWN PROPERTY, BUILDINGS, AND REVENUE ...	151—212
COMMONS AND CATTLE ... ... ... ..	213—229
PUBLIC HEALTH ... ... ... ... ..	231—271
THE TOWN TRADES ... ... ... ... ..	273—308
FREEMEN AND APPRENTICES ... ... ... ..	309—326
CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS ... ... ... ..	327—379
ALL SAINTS' AND OTHER CHURCHES ... ...	381—423
THE DEFENCES OF NORTHAMPTON AND THE COMMONWEALTH STRUGGLE ... ... ... ... ..	425—463
ROYAL VISITS AND NATIONAL EVENTS ... ...	465—490
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ... ... ... ..	491—512
TOPOGRAPHICAL ... ... ... ... ..	513—528
VARIA ET ADDENDA ... ... ... ..	529—544
APPENDIX, WITH LISTS OF MAYORS AND BOROUGH OFFICIALS	545—571
INDEX ... ... ... ... ..	573





Charter of 1st Richard 1.



Journal of the Royal  
Society of Medicine

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London: ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW.

Northampton: BIRDSALL & SON, WOOD STREET.

1898.

**(Northampton :**

**PRINTED BY STANTON AND SON, ABINGTON STREET.**

**1898.**

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## PREFACE.

I COUNT it a high distinction to be permitted to associate myself, in any degree, with a work of such importance as the publication of the Records of the Borough of Northampton. At the time when that work was undertaken I was Bishop of the diocese in which Northampton lies, and was consulted in the initial stages. I then promised to write an historical introduction, but my removal from Peterborough has deprived me alike of the leisure and the appropriateness for such a task. I can only express my personal gratification at the result of much labour to set forth the history and development of a town which ranks high in historical importance, as Mr. Ryland Adkins, with a severe repression of undue patriotism, has abundantly shown.

The publication of municipal records has a twofold value. It gives a great stimulus to the accurate study of local history, and affords a strong incentive to that sentiment of civic duty on which our local self government must ultimately rest. At the same time it is of importance to all students of English institutions; for they can only be fully understood when a great mass of material has been collected in an available form. Every publication of records affords material for correcting old theories, and for framing new ones. It is from dry records that we shall be able in time to construct a picture of the actual life of our ancestors. It is with this daily life of the multitude that history is leaning to concern itself. The growth and working of social organisation are matters of primary importance, and can only be discovered by carefully

studying the records of municipal business. We can there see what men were trying to do, and we can estimate the success of the methods they employed.

To those resident in the neighbourhood of Northampton this book will be of great interest as being, in a very definite manner, their family archives. It is a memorial of the process by which their town acquired an organised life. English municipal institutions developed from below, and were not imposed from above. The right of self-government depended, and always must depend, upon the capacity to exercise it. Royal charters were a recognition of the fact that a borough could manage its affairs for itself better than they could be managed for it. This fact was proved by showing that it was profitable for all parties concerned. Self-government was not the result of any speculative system, but was the most economical way of conducting the business both of the locality and of the state. The charters granted to Northampton are so many indications of the growth of its burghers in shrewdness and in capacity for business.

If we would know what that business was, we have an account of remarkable detail in the "Liber Custumarum," which contains in a codified form the customs and regulations which had gradually grown up for the management of the town's affairs. It is noticeable that it took shape at a time when the restoration of order was of primary importance in England. This proves that during a period of weakness in the state local effort had grown stronger and more conscious of its power. The regulations contained in this book show how large a part of the administration of law in England had fallen into the hands of civic authorities. For instance, the provisions for regulating the market are not so much made for the purpose of facilitating trade in itself, but for maintaining order and preventing robbery in

the neighbourhood. It was this desire which animated the conclusions laid down in the debates held by the burghers on Sundays after service time in All Saints' Church. There was a persistent belief that all evils could be remedied by stricter enactments, and as soon as grievances arose an effort was made to redress them. Every trade had its own ordinances for maintaining that discipline, without which it did not hope to thrive. It is a characteristic of the Middle Ages that men adopted a high standard, and did not despair of attaining to it, however little support their hopes might derive from actual facts. Now-a-days we have a dread of interference, and shrink from making regulations which are not likely to be observed; our forefathers always set forth an ideal, which they knew to be impossible of attainment, but which, nevertheless, expressed the principles on which social life was founded. In these days of universal criticism it is pathetic to read the weighty reasons which are assigned for imposing a fine on those who railed against the mayor and burgesses. (I. 313.) The deepest consideration of the causes on which the well-being of states depends is necessary to justify an attempt to close the mouths of captious critics. In many matters which are treated in the "Liber Custumarum" we see how the evil practices of commercial life remain the same, though we may perhaps claim that they have been greatly lessened. But there runs through the ordinances on these points a spirit which is rare now-a-days, a desire to preserve the fair fame of the town as a whole. Commercial honesty was regarded as a valuable possession for the borough, in which all trades must stand or fall together.

The organisation of the civic Council in later days, and its mode of transacting business, are amply illustrated by the extracts made from its records by Dr. Cox. The change from an assembly of burgesses to a civic Corporation, made by the Act of Parliament passed in 1489, is a great epoch, and we would like to have more

definite information about the events which actually brought it about. There were, of course, many general political causes at work at that time. But there is one consideration which springs out of the matter itself. Business naturally falls into the hands of those who are most willing to do it. In a popular assembly power passes into the hands of committees of experts, who are generally left a free hand. But when there is a time of developed activity, outside criticism increases, and a multitude of tongues make themselves heard. The committee of experts regard this as a dangerous innovation, and think they are justified in taking away an obsolete right which is injuriously exercised for the purpose only of creating confusion. This is the view which is embodied in the preamble of this statute. (I. 101.) There is no conscious hypocrisy about it, but a desire to keep things as they were in the good old times.

I cannot undertake to compare in detail the borough of Northampton with other English boroughs, and point out its distinguishing peculiarities. This is a work for students of municipal institutions. But every English town had characteristics of its own, which were expressed in its history. It is this variety of actual practice which gives unfailing interest to local records. The practical temper of the English mind is shown in its power of silent adaptation of institutions to actual needs. Municipal history is not to be studied by a consideration of the logical development of constitutional ideas, but by a recognition that the mode of doing business was suggested by the nature of the business to be done. If this be so, it is obvious that the history of English towns cannot be written from one or two selected examples, which are taken as typical because their records are available for study. Each borough has its own contribution to make, for it had its own independent life. For this reason the records of every borough have an importance of their own. Their publication is not merely for the satisfaction of local patriotism, or the gratification of local antiquarians, but

is a substantive contribution to the history of that distinguishing quality of the English people, their capacity for managing their own affairs, quietly and reasonably, with a view solely to discover what is the fairest and wisest way of dealing with each question that arises. History consists, after all, in showing the working in any sphere of the qualities of the race.

M. LONDON.

## ILLUSTRATIONS.

PLATE I.—The Charter of 1st Richard I....	...	...	...	...	<i>Frontispiece</i>
CUT.—Initial Letter of Charter	...	...	...	...	p. 116
CUT.—Initial Letter of Charter	...	...	...	...	p. 118
CUT.—Initial Word	...	...	...	...	p. 363
CUT.—Initial Letter	...	...	...	...	p. 421
CUT.—Initial Letter of Charter	...	...	...	...	p. 431

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
<b>DOMESDAY BOOK</b> .....	<b>I</b>
<b>THE GREAT ROLLS OF THE PIPE</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>CHARTER OF 1ST RICHARD I.</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>CHARTER OF 1ST JOHN...</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>LETTERS PATENT OF 3RD HENRY III.</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>LETTERS PATENT OF 9TH HENRY III.</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>CHARTER OF 11TH HENRY III.</b> .....	<b>38</b>
<b>LETTERS PATENT OF 36TH HENRY III.</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<b>CHARTER OF 39TH HENRY III.</b> .....	<b>44</b>
<b>CHARTER OF 41ST HENRY III.</b> .....	<b>46</b>
<b>LETTERS PATENT OF 52ND HENRY III.</b> .....	<b>49</b>
<b>LETTERS PATENT OF 52ND HENRY III.</b> .....	<b>51</b>
<b>LETTERS PATENT OF 54TH HENRY III.</b> .....	<b>53</b>
<b>LETTERS PATENT OF 13TH EDWARD I.</b> .....	<b>54</b>
<b>CHARTER OF 27TH EDWARD I.</b> .....	<b>56</b>
<b>LETTERS PATENT OF 29TH EDWARD I.</b> .....	<b>58</b>
<b>PLEAS OF THE CROWN</b> .....	<b>61</b>
<b>LETTERS PATENT OF 3RD EDWARD III.</b> .....	<b>64</b>
<b>LETTERS PATENT OF 9TH EDWARD III.</b> .....	<b>65</b>
<b>CHARTER OF 11TH EDWARD III.</b> .....	<b>66</b>
<b>CHARTER OF 8TH RICHARD II.</b> .....	<b>68</b>
<b>LETTERS PATENT OF 2ND HENRY IV.</b> .....	<b>72</b>
<b>LETTERS PATENT OF 9TH HENRY VI.</b> .....	<b>75</b>
<b>LETTERS PATENT OF 17TH HENRY VI.</b> .....	<b>75</b>

	PAGE
CHARTER OF 23RD HENRY VI. ... ... ... ... ...	77
LETTERS PATENT OF 30TH HENRY VI. ... ... ... ...	81
CHARTER OF 38TH HENRY VI. ... ... ... ...	84
LETTERS PATENT OF 1ST EDWARD IV. ... ... ... ...	89
LETTERS PATENT OF 2ND EDWARD IV. ... ... ... ...	91
LETTERS PATENT OF 2ND EDWARD IV. ... ... ... ...	92
LETTERS PATENT OF 18TH EDWARD IV. ... ... ... ...	93
LETTERS PATENT 1ST RICHARD III. ... ... ... ...	97
ACT OF PARLIAMENT OF 4TH HENRY VII. ... ... ... ...	101
CHARTER OF 11TH HENRY VII. ... ... ... ...	104
LETTERS PATENT OF 11TH HENRY VII. ... ... ... ...	110
LETTERS PATENT OF 2ND HENRY VIII. ... ... ... ...	111
LETTERS PATENT OF 5TH HENRY VIII. ... ... ... ...	113
LETTERS PATENT OF 1ST EDWARD VI. ... ... ... ...	116
LETTERS PATENT OF 1ST AND 2ND PHILIP AND MARY ... ...	117
LETTERS PATENT OF 41ST ELIZABETH ... ... ... ...	119
LETTERS PATENT OF 16TH JAMES I. ... ... ... ...	125
LETTERS PATENT 15TH CHARLES II. ... ... ... ...	137
LETTERS PATENT 35TH CHARLES II. ... ... ... ...	143
LETTERS PATENT OF 1ST ANNE ... ... ... ...	148
EXEMPLIFICATION OF A JUDGEMENT ... ... ... ...	149
LETTERS PATENT OF 36TH GEORGE III. ... ... ... ...	151
LETTERS PATENT OF 8TH GEORGE IV. ... ... ... ...	184
ACT OF PARLIAMENT OF 5TH AND 6TH WILLIAM IV. ... ...	186
LETTERS PATENT OF 6TH WILLIAM IV. ... ... ... ...	187
LETTERS PATENT OF 6TH WILLIAM IV. ... ... ... ...	188
LETTERS PATENT OF 1ST VICTORIA ... ... ... ...	191
LETTERS PATENT OF 41ST VICTORIA ... ... ... ...	193
NORTHAMPTON TOLL CAUSE ... ... ... ...	195

CONTENTS.

xi

	PAGE
<b>LIBER CUSTUMARUM</b> ... ... ... ... ... ...	<b>197</b>
<b>ACTS OF PARLIAMENT RELATING TO NORTHAMPTON</b> ... ... ...	<b>433</b>
<b>COUNCILS AND PARLIAMENTS HELD AT NORTHAMPTON</b> .. ...	<b>449</b>
<b>LEGAL NOTES ON THE LIBER CUSTUMARUM</b> ... ... ... ...	<b>455</b>
<b>CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS</b> ... ... ... ...	<b>479</b>
<b>GLOSSARY</b> ... ... ... ...	<b>481</b>
<b>INDEX OF SUBJECTS</b> ... ... ... ...	<b>497</b>
<b>INDEX OF PERSONS</b> ... ... ... ...	<b>500</b>
<b>INDEX OF PLACES</b> ... ... ... ...	<b>508</b>



# The Position of Northampton in English History.

BY

W. RYLAND D. ADKINS,

*B.A., Lond.; Late History Exhibitioner, of Balliol College, Oxford;*  
*Barrister-at-Law.*

\*



## THE POSITION OF NORTHAMPTON IN ENGLISH HISTORY.

THE town of Northampton, whose municipal life is described in these volumes, first becomes of importance in English history at the time of the Norman Conquest. Its position, on ground sloping gently to the south-west, and bounded on the west and south by the river Nene, which, flowing south from Naseby, is here joined by the Weedon water, and turns east to Peterborough, must have always been a strong and convenient one. But the Britons selected the brow of the hill to the south of Northampton, where an enclosure and fosse, miscalled Danes' Camp, has yielded in our day one of the richest collections of pre-Roman remains. The Roman, to whom the Nene valley was an important boundary when Britain was in process of being conquered, had most of his forts on the south of the valley, while avoiding Danes' Camp or Hunsbury Hill, and when the district was settled, chose as his chief abode the south-eastern slopes of Duston, to the west of modern Northampton, though slight remains of Roman-British times in the Castle area indicate an obscure community on the site which was afterwards so important. The Saxon undoubtedly had both a village and a fort where the Norman afterwards built, but before the Conquest the town has only antiquarian interest. It is probable that the Nene valley was a boundary between the Angle and Saxon in the centuries when they were settling England, and it is certain that the same line of country marks roughly the southern boundary of Danish permanent settlement, but neither the Angle nor Dane made a chief stronghold of this clearing between the forest and the river. Local antiquaries have differed much as to whether the Castle really existed in Saxon times, but the better opinion is that at "Hamtune" Edward the Elder in 922, after defeating the Danes, erected there one of the chain of forts with which he overawed the Danes who had settled and defended the heart of his kingdom against those who were to come, and that this was on the site of what was afterwards Northampton Castle, and that when in 1010 the Danes burned "Hamtune" it was a place of some size, straggling along the north bank of the river, and protected by its fort, but of no special political value. Thus it remained till the Norman came, when it was a town of

about 60 houses, having some churches, the number of which cannot now be ascertained, and, if a passage from Ingulphus is to be trusted, possessing in a rudimentary form a monastic settlement which was afterwards to become the famous Priory of St. Andrew. Its mint was closed, common as provincial mints were; it gave its name to no Earl; and its unimportance is marked by the fact that when in 1065 Harold met the insurgent Earls Edwin and Morcar here fresh from the displacement of Tostig in Northumberland, the conference agreed to was held not here, but at Oxford, and little, if any, attempt was made to hinder the Northern forces from ravaging the neighbourhood.

With the establishment of William's rule, Northampton emerges from obscurity into fame, and for two hundred and fifty years is constantly the scene of great events, and one of the principal centres of the kingdom. This it owed simply to its geographical position. As already said, it was naturally a good site for a fortified town, and the neighbouring forests, shrunk in modern times to the remote and narrow limits of Rockingham, Salcey, and Whittlebury, were for political and sporting reasons attractive to the Norman kings. Yet such advantages it shared with many places. What was its special value was its position—about half-way between Winchester (the national capital) and York (the capital of the North), and similarly half-way between the Welsh Marches and the East coast. A town so placed was invaluable to the Norman and Plantagenet Kings. The problem before them was to keep a firm grip on the whole kingdom, and to consolidate it into unity. Hence the old divisions of the country were of little concern to them. In Saxon times national unity only appears in rare and fitful gleams, when a strong monarch like Edward the Elder, Edgar, or Canute could obliterate provincial independence. Even so late as Edward the Confessor, the division of England into Northumbria, Mercia and Wessex was the really significant one, and the power of the crown was practically subordinate to it. Such a state of things it was natural for the Norman to fight against, and belonging to neither section, his impartial tyranny was untiringly devoted to weld England into one. For such a purpose it was essential to make his hold on the centre of the country as firm and as personal as possible. Northampton was chosen by one after another of the Plantagenet monarchs as a place of constant resort, whither it was easy to summon, and whence it was quick to

pursue the turbulent Welsh, the restless North, the intriguing Bigods of Norfolk, or the rebellious barons of the West.

The earliest and best proof of the new importance of the town is given in Domesday Book. From being a village of 60 houses under King Edward, it had risen to be a town of 330; of these no less than 100 belonged to the King, and 85 to his half brother, the Earl of Mutan, his niece, the Countess Judith, or his natural son, William Peverel, while houses belonging to the great barons are either few or conspicuous by their absence. The King's personal hold on the town and its growth could scarcely be more strikingly shown. And what appears from Domesday is borne out by William having given the Earldom of Northampton first to Waltheof, the son of the great Siward, and known to us alike by his prowess in arms and his vacillating weakness in statecraft, and then to Simon de St. Liz, endowing it, among other things, with the Countess Judith's local possessions, as well as with the hand of her daughter Maud. The first of these grants, that to the Northumbrian Earl, is characteristic of William's earlier policy of conciliation, while the second, to one of his own personal followers marks his later plan of relying on personal adherents rather than on men previously eminent in England and Normandy, and both show the importance he attached to the control of Northampton.

The marriage of Simon and Maud in 1084 commences the rule of the principal mediæval earls of Northampton, the St. Liz. The three Earls—father, son, and grandson—held the Earldom for just a century, and had a large share in developing the life of the town. The small priory of St. Andrew was enlarged, if not refounded, by the first Simon, and endowed with the patronage of the nine churches which Northampton in 1084 possessed. The church of the Holy Sepulchre was founded by the same man, and he built in Norman fashion the Castle on the site of the old Saxon fort, and surrounded the growing town with a wall. These works occupied much of the time when Rufus was King, and the second St. Liz continued his father's type of energy by founding the Abbey of Delapré in the meadows south of the town, and by re-building the church of St. Peter in a style which stands to our own day. Besides these facts, there is nothing to record till the solitary surviving Pipe Roll of Henry 1st, that of 1131, tells us that the farm rent of Northampton to the crown was £100, whereas in Domesday it had been only £30. In the same year, too, was

held at Northampton the first of the councils which became so frequent there afterwards.

Here the old and wearied king, who was familiar with Northampton as the scene of a conference with his brother Robert, in 1106, and the place where he spent Easter in 1121-22, called the baronage together to swear fealty on the high altar of All Saints' church to his daughter, the Empress Maude. By a curious coincidence it was here that Stephen called his first council in 1136 or 1138 to receive the allegiance of the men previously sworn to his cousin, and St. Liz was throughout his reign one of the unvarying supporters of the king. Stephen held his court here in 1144.

With the reign of Henry II. more details come to light of the position and importance of Northampton. The Pipe Rolls, which have been preserved continuously from the second year of his reign, tell us that the farm rent of the town when he came to the throne was the hundred pounds it had been in his grandfather's time, rising in 1184 to the one-hundred-and-twenty pounds at which it stood for three hundred years. The king's constant visits to Northampton mark his sense of its central and strategic position. He was here in fifteen different years of his reign, a fact which in view of his frequent absence in France, once for four years at a time, indicates an almost annual visit when in England. Here resided his third son, Geoffrey, for a year in 1170-71, when the king and the rest of the court were in Anjou. In 1157 a council was held at Northampton, chiefly on ecclesiastical affairs, and after a fruitless attempt at settlement between Becket and the king at Northampton in 1163, the great council of the following year saw, perhaps, the most dramatic of the historic scenes which happened here, when Becket, condemned by the king and council for his refusal to accept the constitutions of Clarendon and surrender clerical privileges to the common level of citizenship, appealed to the pope, and fled by night from the populace who adored him, and from the monarch and barons who meant his submission or destruction. Sympathy may well be divided between the great churchman, free from vulgar selfishness, and yet struggling for class pretensions which were ruinous to the state, and the wise though brutal king, whose violent and oppressive temper cannot disguise the justice and statesmanship of his administrative methods. The incident is one made familiar by the prose of Froude and the poetry of Tennyson. Its significance for one sketching the

history of the town where it happened lies in the indication it gives of the consequence of the place where the priory of St. Andrew led the burgesses in enthusiastic support of the archbishop, and the strength of the fortress chosen by the king as the spot suitable to bring to a head his vital conflict with Becket.

In the rebellion of 1173-74, in which the younger Henry had the assistance of some of the greatest barons in his attempt to seize his father's throne, Northampton stood for the old king. Here he paid a flying visit of four days in the autumn of 1173, and the Earl of Northampton, the last of the St. Liz, besieged Huntingdon along side De Lacy, the justiciar in the same interest. The constable of Leicester, acting for the Earl, one of the rebels, and then a prisoner in Normandy, defeated the king's burgesses of Northampton early the next year, and later in the summer Northampton was the place at which the king received the submission of the defeated barons.

It was at this date that Northampton castle became royal property. Why St. Liz, then in favour, relinquished it ten years before his death is now beyond ascertainment, but since he then obtained Huntingdon, and was known afterwards as the Earl of Huntingdon, it is possible that there was practically a surrender of the castle, if not of the Earldom, in exchange for that of Huntingdon.

The next council held here two years later had no local bearings, but is memorable as that at which the whole country was for the first time divided into circuits for the annual visits of judges, a tentative plan of the circuits having been successful a year before. Again the next year a great council was held in the town, the last held there in the reign, which marks the end of the rebellion by the restoration of the Earls of Leicester and Chester to their honours. Henceforward Henry had quiet in England.

The important year, however, of this reign for the history of the borough is 1184. In that year died Simon, the last of the St. Liz Earls of Northampton, and the shrewd burgesses seized the chance to buy from the king the right of holding the town of him *in capite*.

This is the true beginning of municipal life. Freed by this means from dependence on the sheriff, and so made separate from the county, no longer having a local earl to overawe them, the

burgesses of Northampton had the king and the king only to deal with, and were launched on the stream of local independence, which naturally led to their gaining five years later from Richard I. their earliest charter by which they could choose their own reeve, and be free as tenants on the royal domain from tolls and exactions throughout the kingdom.

And this local independence was made much easier by the absence of any powerful baron in their immediate neighbourhood. Either in 1174, or at Earl Simon's death, the crown acquired those large estates in Northamptonshire which the Conqueror had given to his niece Judith. These, together with previous royal property, and especially the three great forests already referred to, made the crown practically the sole large landowner in Northamptonshire at this time, and Northampton gained thereby. The forests, as is now well known, were not only preserved for hunting, but being outside the ordinary law formed *imperia in imperio* of which the Angevin kings were jealous guardians, none more so than Henry II. He was at Northampton in 1175, holding a circuit to enquire into encroachments on his forests in the county during the late rebellion, and his vigilance doubtless prevented any new estates being carved out of Whittlebury or Rockingham. In this reign, too, the residential attraction of the neighbourhood of Northampton for the sovereign is most marked. Beside the castle of Rockingham, which he cared for less than did his grandfather, or Rufus, Henry had a palace of importance at Geddington, fifteen miles from Northampton, in the heart of the forest, and there held a great council in 1188, besides paying many less important visits. He had, too, a hunting lodge further north at King's Cliffe, and one at Silverstone, thirteen miles south of Northampton, in Whittlebury forest, both of which are known to have seen him not infrequently.

The effect of the royal residences in the vicinity was naturally to lead to royalty and great officials passing through the town, to bring the town into close relation with king and court, while making it more independent of lesser dignities, and so to give it that character of a privileged and favoured town on the royal domain, which gives the key to its municipal growth during the succeeding reigns.

In that of Richard I., we meet for the first time with detailed notice of the local mint which is referred to in the Pipe Roll of

1160, the inspector thereof paying a fine to the exchequer to be quit of his office in 1198, and Richard spent Easter of 1194 here, attended at his council by William, the Scotch king. The value of the castle, too, is shown very early in the reign, when one of the terms of settlement of the dispute between John and the chancellor is the commitment of the castle to Simon de Patteshall who engaged if the king died without issue to deliver it up to John.

Still more striking is the selection of Northampton for the meeting of notables at the death of Richard, to swear fealty to John, then in Normandy, and to impose conditions of their loyalty upon their new king.

John, indeed, all through his reign had much to do with Northampton. In his first year he issued to the town a charter confirming that of Richard, and adding new privileges, such as the election of four coroners, and the bailiffs. A year or two later the mint is again mentioned, and the king not only visited the town in fourteen out of the seventeen years of his reign, and in one year as many as four times, thirty-one visits in all, but removed the exchequer bither from London in 1209 for six months. In 1212 he held here the council where he met the Nuncios, Pandulph and Durand, and failing to satisfy them was excommunicated. To a king situated as was John in the midst of disaffection, the castle of Northampton was invaluable. Orders for its repair and maintenance appear in the rolls for 1205 and 1213, and particulars of the change of its castellan in 1215. When the civil war broke out Fitz Walter and the army of God and the Holy Church besieged it in vain for fourteen days, and after the granting of Magna Carta it was one of four castles given to the barons as security for the performance of the charter. It reverted to the King's power on the turn of the tide a year later, and was held for him by Fulk de Breauté at the close of his reign.

Meanwhile the town itself was growing in population and independence. In 1202 the Monks of St. Andrew's were at variance with their vicars, the clergy of the town churches, because the latter had opened additional churches (practically chapels of ease) without their patrons' leave. The dispute was referred to Rome, and the Pope decided against the vicars. Thus is seen the growth of the town, which needed more churches and that divergence of feeling between the secular and regular clergy which marked the rise of independent life in a mediæval town. And as the

town had withstood the Priory, so it dared to quarrel with the Castle. In 1216, provoked doubtless by the devastation civil war was working in Northampton, the townsmen rose on the King's garrison, and killed many, only to suffer the penalty of having a large part of the town burned over their heads.

These are apparently passing incidents, but they show us how, at the death of John, Northampton was no longer a collection of dwellings clustered round castle or abbeys. These were still here, and more powerful than ever, but alongside the forces of Church and King were beginning the energies of the citizens, choosing their own chief magistrates, anxious after their own welfare, and building up steadily the edifice of municipal life.

These energies were destined to increase greatly throughout the long reign of John's irresolute son. At the beginning, no doubt, Northampton suffered for the time, as records speak of waste houses within its walls. But its character as a Royal town, resorted to by the Court for festival and council, soon restored its prosperity. The 1200 marks exacted by way of aid from the town in 1227 speaks well of its reputed wealth. Before this, the capture of Bedford Castle by the King (1224) had seen the end of the turbulent career of Fulk de Breauté, who might indeed entertain the King at Northampton, as he did in 1218, but who was bent on quasi-independent rule, and who is the last of the sheriffs in our history to show the continuous turbulence of an earlier age. Henry, who had in 1218 issued letters patent regulating the fairs of Northampton, and in 1224 granted to the burgesses tolls on things entering the town for three years in aid of enclosing and fortifying the town, signalled his full assumption of kingly power in 1227 by confirming his father's charter on the usual terms of a handsome payment for the confirmation. In 1252 came fresh letters patent, granting tolls for enclosing the town, and addressed this time not to the sheriff, but to the mayor and burgesses, the reeve being known as the mayor as early as Richard I.'s time, when a witness to conveyances. In 1255 a charter gives the burgesses relief from arrest for debt, with certain limitations. In 1257 a similar document gives many additional privileges, notably that of returning the King's writs themselves, and not through the sheriff, and freeing the town from the right of the sheriff to make distress in the borough.

This brings the municipal history to the beginning of the

Barons' war, and the town had been prospering steadily. The religious temper of the King had been shown by his removing in 1236 the old town fair from All Saints' churchyard, where it had been held from before the Conquest, and in 1246 he had given a library and sacramental plate to All Saints', and smaller vessels of silver to the other parish churches. More important is the flight of the Oxford students here from 1230 to 1258, joined by Cambridge students in 1258, and the consequent founding of a University under Royal sanction, which numbered thousands of scholars, and only perished by the pressure which Oxford as a Royalist centre put upon the King in 1262 to close the new rival. For by this time the Barons' war had broken out, and at Northampton the townsmen, especially the students, were on the side of the Barons. The Castle was held by the younger De Montford in 1264, and the capture of the town by Henry and Prince Edward, through the convenient assistance of the Monks of St. Andrew's, who surreptitiously admitted them, was the first Royalist success of the war. In the next year the great Earl Simon re-captured it, only to lose it to the King later in the year, and it was here in December, 1265, that the King summoned his array to meet and drive the Barons from Kenilworth. The campaign thus opened, closed with the victory at Evesham, and Northampton was the place chosen for the council held in 1266 to inflict penalties on the vanquished, and restore order to the country. In 1268, at Midsummer, it was here that Edward and many other knights assumed the cross before starting on the crusade, in the presence of the King and Queen and of his wife, the heroic Eleanor of Castille.

Although the town's baronial leanings may have had a little to do with its losing its University, it otherwise continued in court favour after the war. Its charters were confirmed in 1268, when the burgesses received a general pardon for their share in the rebellion, and letters patent in 1278 gave them the prized benefit of keeping dogs in town and suburbs without expeditating or lawing them, an inroad upon the rigorous forestial regulations in their favour, which shows, as social privileges always do show, more than greater things, the prosperity of those receiving them.

The new reign of Edward I. was marked as regards Northampton by a Royal Inquisition, the results of which are recorded in the Hundred Roll. From this it appears that in spite of the wars the town had increased so much as to encroach on the open space which

in a mediaeval town was always left between the houses and the walls, and the business-like habits of the burgesses was shown by the account they presented to the King's commissioners of money due to them from the crown for various entertainings of Royal officers and transmission of Royal property. If the town obtained all it claimed, some £876, they had the best of the commissioners. The next incidents of Northampton's greatness are sinister. Here, in 1277, 300 Jews were executed for clipping the King's coin, doubtless because it was a central place to which to bring malefactors, the Castle having had a special gaol in it for the last generation. Here in 1284, when David, the last of the Welsh princes, was captured and executed, one of his quarters was given to Northampton to be shown on the gate, thus indicating it as one of the most notable towns in England. The same idea is shown in Northampton being chosen in 1283-4 as the place of a Parliament for the counties south of Trent.

It was, indeed, in Edwardian times that the town was at its zenith. An extensive grant of tolls for re-building the walls in 1301 indicates the then enlargement of the town to include within the circuit of its defence the large church of St. Giles, and much orchard and farm land, making an area which was not built upon until within living memory. Then was it that the new Town Hall was built on the edge of the Chequer (the Market square), opposite the churchyard of All Saints, while the centre of the town, geographically and commercially, was shifted eastward, to the said Town Hall and square. In 1299 Edward I., who visited the town at intervals, gave a confirmatory charter, specially emphasizing the right of choosing a mayor and two bailiffs, and Edward II., though adding no charter, held Parliaments here in 1307 and 1317, to which Northampton sent—as, indeed, it did to the first true Parliament, that of 1295—its own representatives. In the requisition for the Scotch war in 1322 Northampton sent 40 men for 40 days at its own expense to meet the King at Newcastle, a larger number than any town save Winchester, which sent 50, and one which contrasts with the 20 sent by Cambridge and Canterbury, the 26 of Exeter, the 25 of Oxford, the 10 of Bedford, and Leicester's 12.

It was here that young King Edward III. held, in 1328, the famous Parliament which confirmed the Scotch treaty, and yielded back the records brought by his grandfather from Scotland, an assembly which has still better title to remembrance from passing the 1st statute of Northampton, which strengthened the processes

of justice, confirmed the Great and Forest Charters, and checked, though only temporarily, the monopoly of the staple. At this time we hear in detail of Queen Isabella staying at the Priory of St. Andrew, of the formalities attaching to the custody of the great seal, and of the absence of the armed men, who had been too used to overcome the deliberation of councils. A little earlier than this an act (17 Edward II.) forbidding tournaments had allowed that one more should be held at Northampton, and a little later than this we note that farm rent of Northampton was assigned a part of the support of the Queen Isabella in her melancholy captivity at Castle Rising.

Besides its connection with the court—other parliaments being held here by Edward III. in 1331 and 1338—Northampton showed increasingly as a centre of ecclesiastical forces. As early as 1290 the friars in the town were of enough consequence to be entertained for three days successively by King Edward I., who was then residing here, and the period now described saw the settlement of all four orders of Friars—the Grey, the White, the Black, and the Austin—within the town of Northampton. Only eleven towns possessed settlements of all four orders at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries.

With boundaries enlarged, and benefiting by the wider liberties of each charter, and by the town's position as a political and religious centre, the burgesses of Northampton naturally developed pretensions to enforce their authority on the surrounding country. In 1330 a presentment was made against the Bailiffs of the town for taking unlawful tolls in a manner which to modern notions seem curiously impudent. The town was empowered to take toll of persons passing through it with carts and merchandise, and in order to prevent anyone evading payment by going round, stationed the toll houses miles outside on the principal roads. In this case the town had one at Slipton, 17 miles away towards Peterborough, and the result here was to limit the bailiffs to taking toll only of those coming to Northampton, not of those who might be passing through Slipton to Leicester, or Rothwell, or elsewhere. Only a town of strength and influence would dare to put a toll house so far afield.

At home the civic life progressed apace. The ordinance of 1311 made Northampton one of the towns of the Statute Merchant, and the mayor accordingly had the power of witnessing by a special seal the pledges of debtors, and by the time of Edward III., the

town had had its common seal for a century, and had a mayoral seal as well. The community was organised as the mayor, twelve burgesses (probably ex-mayors), and commonalty, and it met in the church of St. Giles, partly because of its size, partly because of its convenient distance at the opposite end of the town from the Castle and the Castle influences.

If the Barons' war had seen Northampton Castle at its strongest, and the fifteenth century was to see Northampton reach its goal in a charter of incorporation, and the full privileges of justices and a recorder, it was, as been said, under the Edwards that the town, looked at on all sides of its life, played the largest figure in English history. A thoughtful burgess of the time might well think that his town was destined to be permanently one of the capitals of the country. It had municipal privileges shared by few; it boasted of a royal Castle, and had had three parliaments held there in twelve years. A little later one of the royal heralds took his title from Northampton. The great religious orders chose it for their head quarters, of the trade in wool it had its full share, and a seal of a great interest bearing the head of Edward I., is one of a cloth subsidy, denoting that Northampton manufactured cloth for export and that the duty had been paid thereon.

Yet this apparently secure prosperity was but the prelude to a long and steady decline. Already in Edward III.'s time the Castle which had made the town was wearing towards decay. It had suffered in the Barons' wars. Edward I., who was always fighting his enemies in their countries not his own, and who at one time did not come near Northampton for ten years, was little concerned to spend money upon it, and when the fears and necessities of his successor led him to look to the defences of even his central towns, a survey was made (1323) of the castle of Northampton, and it was found to be in great decay. The great hall, its principal chambers, and the lower chapel had been destroyed by fire, six new turrets had been destroyed by the castellan himself in 1307, the barbican was ruinous, and the estimated outlay needed to fully restore it would, according to Mr. Hartshorne's calculation from original documents, have exceeded £2000. It is even possible that a royal inquisition into its affairs four years later, which decided that it was in the custody of the sheriff of the county, may refer to an attempt of the town to get control of the decaying but still threatening fortress.

And while its military strength was impaired, Northampton was about to lose its political importance. The eighth parliament held here in Edward III.'s reign, that of 1338, was called to sanction and assist the impending war with France, and ere it met Edward was already abroad. With this outbreak of what is well known as the Hundred Year' war, the centre of political grants change from home to foreign politics. No longer is the main problem to manage England from somewhere near its centre, the whole energies of the country were at death grips with France.

No doubt there had been continental fighting under the Norman and early Plantagenets, but their home politics were of equal urgency, and called them again and again to Northampton, while under Edward III. and his successors foreign affairs were everything, and the supplies desired could be better obtained from parliament called to the capital than from assemblies called to a spot so remote from the coast as Northampton. Accordingly, from the time of Crecy, no parliament meets here save one in Richard II.'s reign, when there was peace between England and France, and for the still more conclusive reason of pre-occupation elsewhere, the monarchs discontinued their visits either to the town itself or their forestial seats in the immediate neighbourhood.

Its consequence had depended on its geographical position, and the importance of that having passed away it inevitably went down hill.

But though the sources of its greatness were thus drying up, the decline was in no way rapid. The great religious houses which had just come had come to stay. The municipality was in its lusty youth, was growing in strength and privileges, and became of more prominence in the absence of king and court. In 1335 the town had been granted tolls for rebuilding the south bridge, and three years later received a charter entitling it to hold that profitable institution for a mediæval borough, a fair, for the adequate period of four weeks in every year. This may have been an answer to the petition to the Parliament of 1335 for a reduction of the fee farm rent. Fifteen years later the King assigned his share of this tax to the Canons of Windsor, to whom the town thenceforward paid it, until under recent legislation it was paid instead to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, as it is to the present day.

The reign of Richard II. brought with it a new charter (1385) which confirmed the old ones, and ordered the mayor and bailiffs to hear all pleas of assize and other pleas whatsoever happening within the liberties of Northampton, allowed them to keep the assize of bread, wine, and beer, and weights and measures, and to take cognizance of forestallers and regraters. This was of high consequence as giving to the town almost legislative authority over trade matters, and is the basis of the elaborate trade regulations of which the customary of the town is full.

Five years previously to this, the last parliament held at Northampton had met (1380). It is memorable in our history as having imposed the poll-tax which led to the insurrection of Wat Tyler, and the one vivid appearance of the peasantry in the politics of mediæval England. The local features were the use of All Saints' Church and the Priory of St. James for the meeting of the Parliament, and the fact of the King being lodged outside the town at Moulton, doubtless because the decay of the castle made it unsitting to receive him.

It was about this time, in 1393, that the first mention of Lollardy in Northampton occurs, when one Richard Stormeworth, afterwards M.P. for the borough, complained to the King in council that the mayor was harbouring a Lollard, and encouraging the Lollards to preach in defiance of the Bishop of Lincoln. The incident deserves recording, not only for its own sake, but as the earliest mention of that temper in religion and politics which has been, perhaps, the dominant one in Northampton in later centuries.

With the accession of the House of Lancaster, the history of Northampton becomes almost solely municipal. Henry IV., immediately on his accession, issued to the town letters patent authorising tolls for repairing the wall, but not till the reign of his grandson is there any further mention of Northampton in royal or parliamentary acts. We are justified in thinking that the town had shared in the tendency of towns generally in the fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries to increase in wealth and the acquisition of property. Letters patent of Henry VI. in 1331 containing an act of parliament for the paving of Northampton mention the principal streets of the town as enlarged in 1300. These letters patent were followed in 1435 by other letters confirming previous charters and again in 1445 by a fresh charter giving the important

additional privileges of the mayor being appointed King's escheator, and leave being given to the mayor and commonalty to purchase real property of the value of £40 a year in spite of the statute of mortmain. These privileges were re-conferred in 1452, and in 1459 the town was incorporated, and the mayor for the time being appointed a magistrate, the incorporation being rather a solemn assurance of previous privileges than the conferring of new ones. Thus by the end of Henry VI.'s reign Northampton had obtained practically full municipal powers. The wars of the Roses made little difference to its civic career although the town was the scene of the first decisive battle of the war when on July 10th, 1459, the Earls of March and Warwick, with the support of the townsmen, overthrew the Lancastrians and captured the King. Local historians speak of Henry watching the battle from the hill of the Headless Cross, that structure being one of the Eleanor Crosses erected by Edward I. wherever his wife's body stayed on the way from Harby to Westminster, and one which still stands as a monument not only of conjugal affection and high mediæval art, but as a relic reminding Northampton people of the period when the town was still one of the chief towns of the kingdom.

Edward IV., who had the support of the town throughout his career, issued letters of pardon to Northampton in 1462, for offences committed in the war, and in the same year confirmed the ancient charters, while sixteen years later further letters patent allowed the mayors in future to be sworn in the town, instead of proceeding to London.

Up to this time the mayor and bailiffs were chosen by the commonalty, *i.e.*, by the town at large, and having regard to this, and to the privileges now freshly given by Henry VI. and Edward IV., this may be regarded as the culmination of the municipal life of the town. Its prominence as a royal town came to a head under Henry III., the general prominence royal and municipal in the Edwardian period, and its municipal power and character now. It shared to the full the tendency of the fifteenth century to develop municipal powers, and take an intense interest alike in the collection of ancient customs, and the extension of present rights. It is at this period that the Customary which occupies a good deal of this volume, was compiled, and that shows more clearly than would many pages of comment the elaborate character of the

town's civic life. It shows, among other things, that the custom of taking tolls at stations far outside the walls, mentioned already as giving rise to a royal enquiry in 1330, still continued, and the town secured the tolls of travellers as far away as Syresham, fourteen miles south, and Slipton, seventeen miles east. It points out how carefully the privileges of the town had been used to give the town full legislative powers in all domestic matters, and how thoroughly the town, in true mediæval spirit, looked on the surrounding country as almost foreign territory, to be traded with no doubt, but to be dominated in every possible way to the advantage of the burgesses. The legal notes which Mr. Green has appended to the *Customary*, show the existence of customs which it is reasonable to refer to a period earlier than the first charter, and it is arguable that the continuance of the "droit de retraite," for instance, long after it became a fetter instead of a privilege, may point not only to the early prosperity of the town, but to its decreasing importance in the later times when acts of parliament gave freedom of alienation generally.

For the most singular feature of Northampton life in this fifteenth century is the steady decline of its material fortunes alongside the greater elaboration of its municipal constitutions. In 1462, at the very time when new powers are given to the corporation, twenty pounds of the fee farm rent is remitted for twenty years, and though no reason is given for this in the letters patent, it is impossible not to assign it to the circumstances specially mentioned in a similar grant a few years later, of the decay of the town. The truth is that while the town was still of enough consequence to share and feel the municipal growth, which is one of the main characteristics of this century in England, it did not also share the prosperity of so many towns which marked the age. This, again, was due to its geographical position. It was not in the position of Norwich or the Cinque Ports, or Bristol, to take advantage of that economic revolution of the century which saw England turn from an exporter of raw material to that of manufactured products. It had had at an early period, as has been already seen, a seal indicating it exported cloth, but it was the towns on or near the sea coast which reaped the full advantage of the economic change, and a central, inland town like Northampton was certain to sink more and more into the background. This is curiously borne

out by the act of Parliament of Henry VIII., referring to several decayed towns, including Northampton, all of which, save one are inland.

The first of these remissions of taxation was, as has been said, under Edward IV.; the final one was in letters patent of Henry VIII., in 1514, which remitted twenty-two pounds of the one hundred and twenty for ever. In the interval between these dates other important matters had happened to the town. An Act of Parliament in 1489 had destroyed the old democratic constitution of the assembly, and placed the government of the town in the hands of the mayor, ex-mayors, bailiffs and ex-bailiffs, and forty-eight of the burgesses, chosen in the first instance by the mayor and ex-mayors, and subsequently kept up in numbers by co-optation. This constitution continued until the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835, and from 1480 till 1660 the same oligarchy chose the members of Parliament. The excuse for this strong proceeding was the previous existence of tumults in Northampton and in Leicester, to which a similar provision applied, and it is true that Henry VII. was none too well affected to the towns which had welcomed Richard III.'s democratic policy, but the true cause probably lay quite as much in the shrunken size and weakened energies of the commonalty and the tenacious hold of the leading citizens on corporation patronage and property.

Six years later a charter from the King gave the new corporation the right to choose a recorder and two justices of the peace, with various privileges attaching to them, and with this charter ends the story of the growth of municipal powers in the borough.

Curiously enough, it is from just after this time that the Book of Assembly remains extant, and in the second of these volumes Dr. Cox has illustrated in much detail the civic life of the town for the rest of its existence.

It therefore ceases to be needful in this introduction to say much of the general history of the town from this point onward, especially as the place of Northampton in English history is a much less important one from the beginning of the Tudor period.

Leland gives a picturesque account (1533) of it, noting that the older houses were of stone, and the newer of wood, and by this time it was sinking rapidly to the level of an ordinary county town.

Towards the end of the reign of Elizabeth a new charter, which enlarged its privileges of the town, and specified several

fresh fairs, perhaps marks a rise in prosperity. The tendency appears at this time, and continues through the seventeenth century, to choose as the recorder of the town some neighbouring great lord or dignitary, whose actual work would, of course, be done by a deputy; and the custom is interesting as showing the new relation between the town and the county. It was during the sixteenth century that Northamptonshire became the home of great families and the county of famous houses. The large royal possessions in the forests of the county furnished estates for the new nobility who owed their origin to Crown favour in Tudor times, and by the end of this century the large landowners of the county were the dominating influence, and the county town came more and more to think of itself—if the expression may be used—as the market town for the large graziers, the centre of county government, and the capital in every sense of the county, rather than as the separate powerful little commonwealth of one hundred and fifty years before. A careful survey of the parliamentary elections in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and of the list of recorders, shows that the town was quick to seek the help and patronage of the neighbouring magnates, in important matters. Even in the famous spendthrift election of 1768, when the town, as will be seen directly, had the wide household suffrage, the contest was one between the three great local noblemen—Lord Northampton, Lord Halifax, and Lord Spencer—a striking instance of "county" influence. The same point is illustrated in the offer of the corporation in 1678, when the County Hall was to be built, to subscribe to it on condition it was to be erected in the town, this being the exact opposite of the policy of mediæval Northampton in getting rid of the control and influence of the sheriff wherever possible.

This relation of the town to the county is the leading characteristic to note in the history of the town from late Tudor to Georgean times. Naturally the town during that period calls for less notice than in the earlier period. It suffices to mention that Henry VIII. visited the town once, that Elizabeth was here three times, and that the purchase by James I. of Holdenby House brought him through the town frequently for some years.

The chief marks of the town's history, apart from its new relation to the county already touched on, and its purely municipal life, which Dr. Cox illustrates so fully, were religion and trade. Northampton, as has been already noted, early showed sympathy

with Lollardism, and in Elizabeth's reign it is distinguished for being the town where Puritan and Genevan influence inside the Church of England reached their greatest development. Early in Elizabeth's reign the town had come to have the patronage of the large church of All Saints', and this took the place of St. Giles' as the Corporation church, so that the vigorous Puritanism of its vicar had the greatest significance, and was, we know, supported by the governing body of the town. This temper continued down to the Civil War, and the reader of the second volume of these records will find interesting proof of the rigorous and careful government of the town by its Puritan assembly during the war. Northampton was garrisoned for the Parliament under the leadership of Lord Brooks, and maintained a position of importance in the struggle from the first gathering of Parliamentary troops there under Essex at the beginning of the war, to the final battle of Naseby, but twelve miles away, in 1645. It was naturally one of the towns whose walls were ordered to be destroyed by the first Parliament of Charles II., and by a curious and almost unexpected result of the Restoration the town then regained its wide Parliamentary suffrage. This, as has been noted, had been exercised by the oligarchical assembly since Henry VII's Act of Parliament, but at the Restoration, the householders met in the square and returned two members, while the assembly did the same at the Town Hall. The latter were sure to be Puritans, and the former in sympathy with the restoration, the strictness of the Puritan rule in Northampton having, no doubt, bred unpopularity, and the Cavalier Parliament deciding as was natural in favour of its own side, by this accident restored to the town its ancient democratic franchise, a franchise which after several disputes, was from 1740 to the Reform Bill acted on without question.

These changes come out of the religious disputes at Northampton; the other important aspect of the town in this period was its trade. Although not appearing very early in its history there is reason to believe that its tanners, if not its shoemakers constituted an important trade at the time of the Custumary. The latter, however, first show, with something like general prominence, when 2000 pairs of shoes were ordered for the army of Charles I. in the Irish rebellion of 1640.

A little later the parliamentary army was largely shod from Northampton, and after this time the town was a recognised

centre of the boot and shoe industry. In the eighteenth century also, it was a dépôt of some consequence in the lace trade, the district round, particularly in South Northamptonshire, being largely occupied in hand-made lace making.

But though the principal market as well as the county town, and although a centre both of shoe making and lace selling, Northampton was in this century at the lowest ebb of its fortunes.

The castle, which had lingered on till the Restoration as a jail, and a place where the court of quarter sessions met, had been sold in 1678 to a private individual, and was now but a heap of dwindling ruins used as a quarry by the neighbours. There were but four churches in place of the nine of the Norman period, and the great fire of 1678 which destroyed a part of the town burnt the old church of All Saints, re-built only in shorn proportions. The corporation property, which had been considerable in earlier periods, was wastefully managed, and became considerably impaired in this century, while at some time about this period the important suburbs of Cotton End and St. James' End, which had been under the government of the town, reverted to the county, with whom they still remain.

Yet the political and religious activity of the town retained some vigour. The spendthrift election already alluded to showed the keenness as well as the corruption of the town electors. In the nobler sphere of religious activity the Dissenters of Northampton were conspicuous, and the successive presence here in Northampton of Doddridge and the Rylands, with the prominent part they took in the revival of Evangelicalism made the town prominent among people of that school of thought to the extent of its sharing with Leicester the position of a sort of capital of Dissent in the Midlands during the latter half of the century.

Of the town in the present century only one sentence need be said. The great development of the shoe trade has made Northampton again a place of consequence, and has stimulated its civic life entirely apart from its position as the chief town of the county. If the local boast be true that there is a greater percentage of the inhabitants owners of their own dwellings than in any other English town, it tells of a sound economic basis of municipal prosperity. The use of machine lace has taken from Northampton its old consequence as a centre of the lace trade, and its markets and fairs, though still flourishing, are, except that

of cattle, scarcely so great in proportion as they were. On the other hand, in the trade of brewing it has an industry which does more than supply local demands. Its vigour of political life has been shown by the choice of members of parliament, now of this party, now of that, who have been, on the whole, above the average in individuality of character, and the town itself grows larger at an ever increasing rate. Northampton is to-day high up in the second rank of manufacturing towns, and shows also the usual type of county metropolis. The small Saxon settlement, the great Norman fortress, the royal town of the Plantagenets, the vigorous municipal commonwealth, the stronghold of Puritanism, the quiet county capital, the growing trade centre, all these successive phases lie behind, and go to make what Northampton is to-day. The records of the municipality are therefore of special historic interest, and show in these volumes a rich variety of material. To provide a string of narrative on which readers can thread such of the facts and incidents as they wish to remember has been the object of this introduction, and to those, at any rate, who are connected with the town of Northampton by birth or residence, by interest or sentiment, the details of its past life may be perhaps the more interesting from the reminder which is here given of the high national importance of the town in early times, and of its varying characteristics at different periods of its history.



## Domesday Book.

THE first official notice of Northampton, as of other towns and counties in England, commences with that wonderful compilation made by William the Conqueror in or about the year 1086. Thus, although scattered notices of the town and county will be found in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and other contemporary records, it has been thought well to begin this volume with a reproduction of the portions of the Domesday Book relating to the Town of Northampton, together with a translation thereof.

### NORTHANTSCIRE.

TEMPORE REGIS EDWARDI fuēr in NORTHANTONE  
in dñio regis lx. burgenses. hñtes totis mansiones.

Ex his sunt m. xiiii. uaste. Residue sunt xl.vii.

Preter hos sunt m in nouo burgo. xl. burgenses  
in dñio regis Witi.

In ipso burgo h̄i Eps constantiensis. xxiii. domos.  
de xxix. solid. 7 iiii. denar<sup>s</sup>.

Abb de S Edmundo. i. domū de .xvi. denar<sup>s</sup>. F uaste.

Abb de Burg. xv. dom<sup>9</sup> de .xiiii. sol 7 viii. den<sup>9</sup>. Due s̄t

Abb de Rameyng. i. domū de .xvi. denar<sup>s</sup>.

Abb de Couentreu. iii. dom<sup>9</sup> de .xii. denar<sup>s</sup>. Tres s̄t uaste.

Abb de Evesham. i. domū uasta.

Abb de Salebi. ii. dom<sup>9</sup> de .xxxii. denar<sup>s</sup>.

Comes Moriton. xxxvii. de .xl. sol 7 viii. den<sup>9</sup>. Due s̄t

uaste. De .ix. domibꝫ harū h̄i rex lochā.

Comes Hugo. i. domū de .iiii. denar<sup>s</sup>.

Comtaffa Juſita. xvi. domos. de xii. sol. Vna. ē uasta.

Roðt<sup>9</sup> de Todeni . iiii . ðom<sup>9</sup> de . iiiii . sol . Vna . ē uasta.  
 Henric<sup>9</sup> de fereires . viii . dom<sup>9</sup> de . ix . sol 7 iiii . den<sup>9</sup>      ✓ socā.  
 Aniger<sup>9</sup> capellan<sup>9</sup> regis . i . ðomū ðe qua rex debet habe  
 Witts peurel . xxxii . ðom<sup>9</sup> . ðe . xxvij . solid 7 viii . den<sup>9</sup>.  
 Tres ex his sunt uaste.      ✓ redd . xvi . denar<sup>9</sup>  
 Witts fili<sup>9</sup> boselini . ii . ðe feudo epi baioc<sup>9</sup> 7 comitissa Judit  
 Witts inganie . i . ðom<sup>9</sup> de Roðto de boci . 7 nil reddit.  
 Wiðo ðe Rainbuðcurt . iiii . dom<sup>9</sup> de . lxiiii . ðenar<sup>9</sup>.  
 Walter<sup>9</sup> flanðrentis . x . dom<sup>9</sup> ðe . viii . sol . Vna . ē uasta.  
 Winemar<sup>9</sup> . xii . dom<sup>9</sup> ðe . iii . sol . Ex his . iii . sunt uaste.  
 Ricard<sup>9</sup> inganie . iiii . ðom<sup>9</sup> de . iiiii . solid.  
 Roðt de Alueris . i . ðomū ðe . xii . ðen<sup>9</sup>.  
 Roger<sup>9</sup> de boscnorman . i . ðom<sup>9</sup> ðe . xvi . ðen<sup>9</sup>.  
 Goisfrid<sup>9</sup> de Wirce . iiii . ðom<sup>9</sup> ðe . iiiii . sol.  
 Goisfrid<sup>9</sup> alselin 7 Rað nepos ei<sup>9</sup> . ii . dom<sup>9</sup> de . ii . sol.  
 Gilo fr<sup>9</sup> Ansulsi . iii . ðom<sup>9</sup> ðe xxxii . ðenar<sup>9</sup>  
 Gunfrid<sup>9</sup> de Cioches . viii . ðom<sup>9</sup> ðe . viii . sol . Tres sī uaste.  
 Sigar de Cioches . i . ðom<sup>9</sup> ðe xvi . ðen<sup>9</sup>.  
 Suain fili<sup>9</sup> Azur xxi . ðom<sup>9</sup> ðe x . sol . ptin<sup>9</sup> ad Stoches.  
 Anfrid<sup>9</sup> de ualbaðon . ii . ðom<sup>9</sup> de . ii . sol . ðe feuðo epi baioc<sup>9</sup>  
 Balduin<sup>9</sup> dimið mansionē uastā . Lefstan<sup>9</sup> . i . ðom<sup>9</sup> de ii ðen<sup>9</sup>.  
 Ofðn<sup>9</sup> gifart<sup>9</sup> . i . ðom<sup>9</sup> ðe . iiiii . ðen<sup>9</sup>. Goduin<sup>9</sup> . i . ðomū ðe . xii . ðen.  
 Durand<sup>9</sup> pposit<sup>9</sup> . i . ðom<sup>9</sup> ðe xvi . den<sup>9</sup> de feuðo Roðti Todeni.  
 Dodin . ii . ðom<sup>9</sup> ðe xx . ðen<sup>9</sup>. Vna . ē ðe Judit . alta de Winemaro.  
 Hugo de Widuile . ii . ðom<sup>9</sup> ðe xxxii . denar<sup>9</sup>.      Comitissa

\* \* \* \* \*

✓ Burgenses ðe Hantone redōt vicecomiti p anō . xxx . lib 7 x . solid  
 Hoc ptin<sup>9</sup> að firma ipsius.  
 ✓ Juðita comitissa hī . vii . lib ðe exitib/ei<sup>9</sup> burgi.

\* \* \* \* \*

### TERRA REGIS

\* \* \* \* \*

Rex hī in ðmō de Portlanð . ii . carucatas . 7 <sup>af</sup> partes itie carucate .  
 7 xii . acf pā . Ad eccliam S Petri iacet . i . car<sup>9</sup> tre 7 ad eccliam  
 omīu setu dimið carucata . Portlanð cū pto T.R.E. reddēb xl.viii .  
 sol . 7 x . solis p feltris somario<sup>9</sup> regis . Sup hec debet rex habe . ix .  
 lib 7 xii . sol . p alūs exitib<sup>9</sup> burgi.

\* \* \* \* \*

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

IN King Edward's time there were in Northampton, in the King's demesne, sixty burgesses, having as many mansions. Of these, fourteen are now waste. Forty-seven are left. Besides these, there are now in the new town forty burgesses in King William's demesne.

In the same town the Bishop of Coutance<sup>1</sup> has twenty-three houses, rendering twenty-nine shillings and four pence.

The Abbot of Saint Edmund<sup>2</sup> [has] one house, rendering sixteen pence.

The Abbot of Burgh<sup>3</sup> fifteen houses, rendering fourteen shillings and eight pence. Two are waste.

The Abbot of Ramsey,<sup>4</sup> one house, rendering sixteen pence.

The Abbot of Coventry,<sup>5</sup> four houses, rendering twelve pence.

Three are waste.

The Abbot of Evesham,<sup>6</sup> one house, lying waste.

<sup>1</sup> At the time of the great survey Geoffrey was bishop of the city of Coutance, in the department of Manch in Normandy. He received large spoils in England, and in Northamptonshire he owned lands in some thirty-four parishes.

<sup>2</sup> Bury Saint Edmunds monastery, situate in Suffolk. Baldwin, a monk of St. Denis at Paris, was the abbot of this wealthy abbey from 1065 to 1097. He was in great favour with the Conqueror, who granted a charter to Saint Edmunds. He owned lands in the counties of Bedford, Cambridge, Northampton, Norfolk, and Suffolk.

<sup>3</sup> After the death of Abbot Brands in 1069, King William appointed Thorold or Turold, a monk of Fescamp in Normandy, as abbot of Peterborough, Northamptonshire. During the time he was abbot, the Danes, headed by Hereward the Wake, plundered Peterborough, and destroyed many of the buildings. Abbot Thorold died at Peterborough about 1098.

<sup>4</sup> The Abbey of Ramsey in Huntingdonshire, also owned land in seven other parishes in this county, and in the counties of Bedford, Cambridge, Hertford, Huntingdon, Lincoln, Norfolk, and Suffolk. Ailsius or Eylsinus was made Abbot in 1080, and governed the monastery for eight years.

<sup>5</sup> The Abbey of Coventry in Warwickshire, held lands in four other parishes in Northamptonshire, and in Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, and Warwickshire. Leofwinus or Lewinus was the last abbot. He is said to have died in 1095.

<sup>6</sup> King William, after the death of Æthelwig the Abbot of Evesham in Worcestershire, in 1077, granted the abbey to Walter, a Norman chaplain of Lanfranc, who carried on great buildings at the abbey with the money which Æthelwig had gathered together. The abbey of Evesham only held land at Lichborough, in this county; and in the counties of Gloucester, Warwick, and Worcester.

The Abbot of Selby,<sup>7</sup> two houses, rendering thirty-two pence.

The Earl of Mortain,<sup>8</sup> thirty-seven [houses], rendering forty-five shillings and eight pence. Two are waste. Of nine of these houses the King has soc.

Earl Hugh,<sup>9</sup> one house, rendering four pence.

The Countess Judith,<sup>10</sup> sixteen houses, rendering twelve shillings. One is waste.

Robert de Todeni,<sup>11</sup> four houses, rendering four shillings. One is waste.

Henry de Fereires,<sup>12</sup> eight houses, rendering nine shillings and four pence.

Ansger,<sup>13</sup> the King's Chaplain, one house, of which the King ought to have soc.

<sup>7</sup> Benedict, a monk of Auxerre in France, was the Abbot of Selby, Yorkshire at the time of the great survey. He also held land at Stanfold; but these are the only two notices of this Abbey in Domesday.

<sup>8</sup> Robert, Earl of Mortain in Normandy, was the son of Herwin and Herleva, and half brother to the Conqueror; to his share fell the largest portion of the spoils of England—indeed he held land in some ninety-eight parishes in this county. According to Kelham he died in 1091.

<sup>9</sup> "Hugh D'Avranches, son of the loyal Richard, the grandson of the rebel Thurstan, finds a place in English History as the first of the mighty but short-lived race of the County Palatine of Chester." He was surnamed Lupus. He held land in eight parishes in this county, and lands in other parts of England. Hugh refounded the abbey of St Sever in the Diocese of Coutance in 1085; re-endowed the monastery of St. Werburgh, and rebuilt the minster at Chester, where he died July 27th, 1101, having been professed a monk four days.

<sup>10</sup> Countess Judith was the daughter of Odo, Earl of Champaigne, by Adeliza, half-sister of the Conqueror. She was the wife of Waltheof, son of Siward, "the strong," Earl of Huntingdon, Northampton, and Northumberland, and left three daughters, Matilda, Judith, and Alice. The first was married to Simon de St Liz, with whom he had the Counties of Northampton and Huntingdon; the second to Ralph de Toni, Lord of Flamstead; and the third to Robert, fourth son of Richard de Tonebridge. Judith was possessed of large estates in Northamptonshire and other counties; and she founded the Nunnery of Elinstow in Bedfordshire.

<sup>11</sup> Robert de Todeni, also called Robert de Belvedeir, was a noble Norman to whom the Conqueror gave several lordships in this and other counties. He founded Beivoir castle, and the cell of monks there which he annexed to St. Alban's abbey. He died in 1088.

<sup>12</sup> Henry de Fereires, the ancestor of the family of Ferrers, Earls of Derby, was a follower of William, and was one of the Commissioners for making the great survey. He obtained the lands of Godric; Tutbury castle in Staffordshire being one of his possessions.

<sup>13</sup> Ansger was probably the King's private chaplain; and he was also probably the Angerus Clericus who held land of the King in the parish of Maidwell, Northamptonshire.

William Peverel,<sup>14</sup> thirty-two houses, rendering twenty-eight shillings and eight pence.

Three of these are waste.

William, the son of Boselin, two [houses], of the fee of the Bishop of Bayeux and the Countess Judith, rendering sixteen pence.

William Inganis [holds] one house of Robert de Boci, and renders nothing.

Wido de Rainbudeurt,<sup>15</sup> four houses, rendering sixty-four pence.

Walter Flandensis,<sup>16</sup> ten houses, rendering eight shillings. One is waste.

Winemar,<sup>17</sup> twelve houses, rendering three shillings. Of these, four are waste.

Richard Inganis, four houses, rendering four shillings.

Robert de Aluers, one house, rendering twelve pence.

Roger de Boscnorman, one house, rendering sixteen pence.

Goisfrid de Wirce,<sup>18</sup> four houses, rendering four shillings.

Goisfrid Alselin<sup>19</sup> and his nephew Ralph, two houses, rendering two shillings.

Gilo,<sup>20</sup> the brother of Ansculf, three houses, rendering thirty-two pence.

Gunfrid de Ciocles,<sup>21</sup> eight houses, rendering eight shillings. Three are waste.

<sup>14</sup> William Peverel was a Norman adventurer of unknown origin, but who was said to have been the natural son of the Conqueror. He owned much land in the county of Northampton, which had previously belonged to Giteda, and in the counties of Nottingham and Derby. He was in great trust with the Conqueror, and was the governor of the castle at Nottingham. He founded the two priories of Saint James, near Northampton, and Lenton, near Nottingham, and appears, to have lived until about 1140.

<sup>15</sup> Wido de Rainbudeurt also held lands at Elkington in this county.

<sup>16</sup> Walter of Flanders, with other Flemings, joined William before the invasion, he received lands in the counties of Northampton and Bedford, and was perhaps the same as Walter de Wahull.

<sup>17</sup> Winemar was the chief steward of the Earl of Brittany: he held lands from the King in Cosgrove and other villages in Northamptonshire.

<sup>18</sup> Geoffrey de Wirce was a native of Little Brittany in France, and he assisted William in the conquest of England. He also held lands at Elkington and Welford in this county.

<sup>19</sup> Geoffrey Alselin obtained the land in this and other counties which had belonged to a Saxon named Tochi. His estates in Milton, Cullingtree, and Rothersthorpe, after two generations, went by a daughter to the Bardolphs.

<sup>20</sup> Gilo held lands from the King in eleven villages in this county.

Sigar de Cioces,<sup>21</sup> one house, rendering sixteen pence.

Suin,<sup>22</sup> the son of Azur, twenty-one houses, rendering ten shillings, pertaining to Stoches.

Ansfred de Valbadon, two houses, rendering two shillings, of the fee of the Bishop of Bayeux.

Baldwin, the moiety of a waste mansion. Lefstan, one house, rendering four pence.

Osbern Gifard, one house, rendering four pence. Godwin the priest, one house, rendering twelve pence.

Durand the Reeve,<sup>23</sup> one house, rendering sixteen pence, of the fee of Robert Todeni.

Dodin, two houses, rendering twenty pence. One is [held] of the Countess of Judith, the other of Winemar.

Hugh de Widvile, two houses, rendering thirty-two pence.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Burgesses of Hantone<sup>24</sup> render to the Sheriff yearly thirty pounds and ten shillings. This belongs to his farm.

The Countess Judith has seven pounds of the issues of the same town.

The King's land.

\* \* \* \* \*

The King has in the demesne of Portland<sup>25</sup> two carucates and two parts of a third carucate, and twelve acres of meadow. One carucate of land belongs to the Church of Saint Peter,<sup>26</sup> and half a carucate to the Church of All Saints.<sup>27</sup> Portland, with the meadow, in King Edward's time used to render forty-eight shillings, and ten shillings for the rugs of the King's sumpter horses. Besides this, the King ought to have nine pounds and twelve shillings for other issues of the town.

<sup>21</sup> Gunfrid and Sigar de Cioces were, according to Kelham, related to each other. The former held estates in some seventeen parishes in this county, the latter only in one.

<sup>22</sup> Suain also held land in Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire, where "fourteen villeins, with the priest and seven bordars, have five ploughs."

<sup>23</sup> Durand was perhaps the reeve of Northampton, a most important officer at that time.

<sup>24</sup> The Burgesses or Freemen of Northampton.

<sup>25</sup> It is not known where the demesnes of Portland were situated, but they were probably part of the adjoining meadows.

<sup>26</sup> Saint Peter's, near the Northampton Castle, was probably a Saxon church, the present building is of the late Norman period.

<sup>27</sup> All Saints', in the centre of the town, then as now the principal church.

## The Great Rolls of the Pipe.

THE Great Rolls of the Exchequer, or Pipe Rolls, contain the accounts of the revenues of the crown. These are arranged according to the several counties, and are little more than the receipts and disbursements of the Sheriffs.

The first of these documents now existing is that of the 31st year of Henry I. After a break of thirty-six years, the series commences again in the second year of the reign of Henry II., and from this very remote time is complete until the present day, with the exception of the rolls for the first year of the reign of Henry III., and the seventh year of the reign of Henry IV.

These accounts form most interesting records, and throw considerable light on the customs of the time. The first roll here printed is, with the exception of the Domesday Book, the earliest national document of any importance.

As is evident, it is impossible to print in this volume the whole of these rolls from 1156 to the present time; it has, therefore, been thought advisable only to give the portions relating to the town of Northampton until 1189, when the first charter was granted to the town. The first six of these are printed in Latin and English, the remainder in English only.

ANNO 31 HEN I. 1130-31.

Bvrgum de Norhamtuna. Robt<sup>9</sup> reuell<sup>9</sup> redit cōpōt. de firma burgi  
de Norhātona. Jn thāuro q<sup>t</sup>.xx . 7 . x . ti . 7 . xiiij . s . 7 . iiij . d .

Et Jn libat̄ constit̄. viij . ti . 7 . ij . s . 7 j . d .

Et Jn Elemosinif Constit̄. Monāch de Norhātona . xx . s . Et Eisdē  
Monāch . iii . s . 7 . viij . d . p t̄ra sua q<sup>r</sup> rex cepit infra Castellū  
suū. Et Quiet<sup>9</sup> est.

Hugo Gubiun. deb . x . m̄ . ar̄g . p plāc Duelli.

Ernulf<sup>9</sup> fit Petri. deb . xv . m̄ . ar̄g . p fuga Monast<sup>9</sup>ii.

Et It̄ Robt<sup>9</sup> redit Compot de Auxilburgi de Norhamtona.

Jn thaūro . viij . ti . 7 iiiij . s .

Et Jn pdōn p. br. R<sup>y</sup>. Monāch de Norhātona xxxiiij . s . Willō de  
Albiñ bri<sup>9</sup> . ij . s . Et Quiet<sup>9</sup> est.

The Borough of Northampton. Robert Revell <sup>28</sup> renders account  
of the Farm of the Borough of Northampton.  
In the Treasury £90. 14s. 3d.  
And in payments made £8. 2s. 1d.  
And in alms paid to the Monks of Northampton <sup>29</sup> 20s. And to the  
same Monks 3s. 8d. for their land which the King took within  
his Castle. And he is quit.  
Hugh Gubion <sup>30</sup> owes 10 marks in money for his plea of combat.  
Ermulf the son of Peter owes 15 marks in money for the flight of  
the Monks.  
And the same Robert renders account of the Aid of the Borough  
of Northampton. In the Treasury £8. 4s.  
And in pardon by the King's writ to the Monks of Northampton  
34s. To William de Albin Britus <sup>28</sup>. And he is quit.

ANNO 2 HEN. II. 1155-56.

Norhantuna. Rob fit Sawini. redd. Comp de firma Northaſt.  
Jn ih. L. ii.  
Et Jn Soltis. Eig. Roß. L. ii. p. bf. R.  
Et Jn Eleſi nouit Conſt. Miliſib⁹ de Tēplo. j. m. arg.  
Et hī de Suppl⁹. j. m. arg.  
Et Jd redd Comp de xl. m. de Dono Ciuitatis. North. Jn th.  
libauit. Et Quiet⁹ est.

Northampton. Robert the son of Sawin <sup>31</sup> renders account of the  
Farm of Northampton.  
In the Treasury £50.  
And in payments to the said Robert £50 by the King's writ.

<sup>28</sup> Robert Revell was probably high sheriff of the county of Northampton in 1130-31.

<sup>29</sup> These monks of Northampton would, no doubt, be the monks of St. Andrew's Priory, which was founded before 1076, and largely endowed by Simon de St. Liz in 1084. The grounds of this Priory touched the grounds of the Castle on the north-west.

<sup>30</sup> This Hugh Gubion was the grandfather of the Richard Gubion who in 1200 obtained a grant of the land without the east gate of Northampton, to be held of the crown by the yearly payment of two shillings, in lieu of all services.

<sup>31</sup> Robert, the son of Sawin, appears to have been sheriff of the county from 1155 to 1163, and from 1165 to 1174.

And in Alms newly paid to the Knights of the Temple <sup>22</sup> 1 mark  
in money.

And he hath [paid] in surplusage one mark in money.

And the same renders account of 40 marks of the gift of the City  
of Northampton <sup>23</sup>. He hath paid it into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

## ANNO 3. HEN. II. 1156-57.

Norhantuna . Robert<sup>o</sup> fili<sup>o</sup> Sawini . redd<sup>t</sup> Comp<sup>p</sup> de firma De  
Norhan<sup>i</sup>. Jn th. L. ii.

Et Jn Suppl<sup>p</sup>. xij. s. 7 iiiij. d.

Et Jn Elemo<sup>s</sup>. Con<sup>t</sup>. Militib<sup>s</sup> de Tēplo . j. m. arg .

Et Jn Soltis . p b<sup>r</sup> . Ry . Eit<sup>t</sup> Robt<sup>t</sup> . L. ii .

Et ht de Supp<sup>p</sup>. ij . m. arg .

Northampton. Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the  
Farm of Northampton.

In the Treasury £50.

And in surplusage 13s. 4d.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark in  
money.

And in payment by the King's writ to the same Robert £50.

And he hath [paid] in surplusage 2 marks in money.

## ANNO 4 HEN II. 1157-58.

Norhantuna .

Robert<sup>o</sup> fit Sawini . redd<sup>t</sup> Comp<sup>p</sup> de firma de Norhantuna . d<sup>p</sup> . C ti ño  
Jn Suo Suppl<sup>p</sup>. ij . m . arg . Et Jn Soltis Eit<sup>t</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> . qt<sup>t</sup> . xx . 7 .  
xvij . ti .

Et Jn Elem<sup>i</sup> nouit Conf<sup>t</sup>. Militib<sup>s</sup> de Tēplo . j. m. arg . Et Mona<sup>c</sup>  
de Scō Andrea . xx.s. p b<sup>r</sup> . Ry . Et Quiet<sup>p</sup> est.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of North-  
ampton £100 tale. In his surplusage 2 marks in money. And  
in payments to the said Robert £97.

<sup>22</sup> These Knights were probably of the order of Knight Templars of the Church  
of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton.

<sup>23</sup> Northampton is, by the error of the scribe, called a city.

And in Alms newly paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark in  
money. And to the Monks of Saint Andrew 20s. by the King's  
writ. And he is quit.

ANNO 5 HEN II. 1158-59.

Norhantōn

Robert⁹ fili⁹ Sawini redit Comp⁹ de firma de Norhānt. In Soltis  
p bř. Rȝ. Eisd Robto q̄t̄ xx. 7. xvij. li. 7. vj. 5. 7. viij. d.

Et Jn Elēm novit⁹ Const⁹ Mīl de Tēplo. j. m̄. Et Monāch de Nořh  
xx. 5. Et Quiet⁹ est.

Et Jd redit Comp⁹ de C C. m̄. de dono Burgi de Nořh. Jn ih. C.  
7. iiiij. li. 7. xij. 5. 7. iiijd.

Et Jn Soltis p bř. Rȝ. Eisd Rōb. xxxij. s. 7. iiijd. ad pficiēnd C.li.

Et Jn pdōn p br. Rȝ. Rič de Aṁbl. j. m. Et dēb xxvj. li. 7 vj. 5. 7  
viij. d.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of North-  
ampton. In payments to the said Robert by the King's writ  
£98. 6s. 8d.

And in Alms newly paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark.  
And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And he is quit.

And the same renders account of 200 marks of the gift of the  
Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £104. 13s. 4d.

And in payments to the said Robert by the King's writ 33s. 4d.  
to make £100.

And in pardon to Richard de Amble by the King's writ 1  
mark. And he owes £26. 6s. 8d.

ANNO 6. HEN. II. 1159-60.

Norhantona

Rob fil Sawini. redit. Comp . de C . li de firma de Norhānt . Militb̄  
de Tēplo. j. m̄. ar̄g Et Monāch de Nořh . xx . s.

Et Jpsi Rohto Jn Soltis p br. Rȝ. C. li.

Et h̄t de Suppl⁹ xxxij. s. 7. iiijd. d.

Jd redit Comp⁹ de xxvj. li. 7. vj. 5. 7. viij. d de Dono Civitat⁹. Jn  
Soltis p bř. Rȝ. Eisd Rob. xxvj. li. vj. 5. 7. viij d Et Quiet⁹ est.  
Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of £100. for the Farm  
of Northampton. To the Knights of the Temple one mark in  
money. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s.

And in payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £100.

And he hath [paid] in surplusage 33s. 4d.

The same renders account of £26. 6s. 8d. of the gift of the city.

In payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £26. 6s. 8d.

And he is quit.

ANNO 7 HEN. II. 1160-61.

**Northampton.**

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of £100 for the Farm of Northampton. In payments to the said Robert £100 by the King's writ.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And he hath a surplusage of 33s. 4d.

And the same renders account of 160 marks of the gift of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury in two Tallies [*i.e.*, by two separate payments]. And he is quit.

And the same renders account of 26 marks for the Mint.<sup>24</sup> He hath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.

ANNO 8 HEN. II. 1161-62.

**Northampton.**

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northampton. In payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £100. In Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark.

And to the Monks of Northampton 20 shillings. And he hath of surplusage 33s. 4d.

The same renders account of £10 of the Borough. In the treasury 66s. 8d. In payments to the same Robert by the King's writ £6 and 1 mark, and he hath in surplusage 4 marks.

Fulco de Lidoyus renders account for the assessment of the Forest of £20. In the treasury £18.

And in tithes paid to the Canons of Lincoln 40s. And he is quit.

ANNO 9 HEN. II. 1162-63.

**Northampton.**

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northampton. In his surplusage 33s. 4d.

<sup>24</sup> This is the first notice of the Northampton mint, although one had existed in the town from early times.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And in payments by the King's writ to the said Robert £100.  
And he hath [paid] in surplusage 66s. 8d.

ANNO 10 HEN. II. 1163-64.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northampton. In his surplusage 66s. 8d.  
And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s.  
And in payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £100.  
And he hath [paid] in surplusage 100s.

ANNO 11 HEN. II. 1164-65.

Northamptonshire.

Simon the son of Peter <sup>25</sup> renders account of £4 white <sup>26</sup> of the old Farm of Northamptonshire. He bath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.  
And the same renders account of the new Farm. In the Treasury £109. 5s. 7d. white.  
And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark.  
\* \* \* \* \*  
And in payments to Robert the son of Sawin by the King's writ £100.  
And he owes £8. 0s. 13d. white.

ANNO 12 HEN. II. 1165-66.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of £100 for the Farm of Northampton. In his surplusage £6. 13s. 4d.  
And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And in payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £100. And he hath [paid] in surplusage £8. 6s. 8d.

<sup>25</sup> Simon the son of Peter, or Simon Fitz-Piers, as he is called by Bridges, was sheriff from 1164-65.

<sup>26</sup> Coins paid into the Exchequer were generally tested by being melted, and if not of the proper fineness, the person paying the money had to pay sixpence or more in every pound: the money was then said to be blanched or white.

## ANNO 13 HEN. II. 1166-67.

**Northampton.**

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of £100 for [the farm of] Northampton. In payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £100.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s.

And he hath of surplusage 33s. 4d.

## ANNO 14 HEN. II. 1167-68.

**Northampton.**

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of £100 for the Town of Northampton. In his surplusage 33s. 4d.

And in payment to the said Robert by the King's writ £100. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark.

And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And he hath [paid] in surplusage 66s. 8d.

The same renders account of two hundred marks for the aid of the Borough of Northampton to marry Maud, the King's daughter.<sup>37</sup>

In the Treasury £51. 13s. 4d.

And he owes £80. 33s. 4d..

## ANNO 15 HEN II. 1168-69.

**Northampton.**

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of £100 for the farm of Northampton. In his surplusage 66s. 8d.

And in payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £100.

And in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And he hath [paid] in surplusage 100s.

The same renders account of £80. 33s. 4d. for the aid of the Borough of Northampton to marry Maud the King's daughter.

In the Treasury £62. 16s. and he owes £19. 12s. whereof £10 are upon the Moneyers<sup>38</sup> of the same Town who render account above in the County.

<sup>37</sup> The Princess Maud married Henry V. Duke of Saxony, surnamed *The Lion*. She died in 1189.

<sup>38</sup> The moneyers were the officers or ministers of the King's mint at Northampton.

## ANNO 16 HEN. II. 1169-70.

Northamptonshire.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire for half-a-year.

Northampton. \* \* \* \* \*

The same renders account of £100 for the Farm of Northampton.

In the Treasury nothing.

And in his surplusage 100s. And in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s.

And in payments to the same Sheriff by the King's writ £100.

And he hath [paid] in surplusage £6. 13. 4d. which is accounted to him in the Farm of Higham.<sup>39</sup>

The same Sheriff renders account of £9. 12s. for the aid of the Borough of Northampton to marry the King's daughter. In the Treasury 58s. 8d.

And he owes £6. 13s. 4d.

## ANNO 17 HEN. II. 1170-71.

Northamptonshire.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

Northampton. \* \* \* \* \*

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury nothing.

And in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s.

And in payments to the same Sheriff by the King's writ £100. And he hath [paid] in surplusage 33s. 4d. which is accounted to him in the Farm of Higham.

The same Sheriff owes £6. 13s. 4d. for the aid to marry the King's daughter.

## ANNO 18 HEN. II. 1171-72.

Northamptonshire.

Robert the Son of Sawin renders account of £100. 5s. 2d. white for the old farm of Northamptonshire.

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<sup>39</sup> The town of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire.

## Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury nothing. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And in payments to the same Sheriff by the King's writ £98. 6s. 8d. And he is quit.

ANNO 19 HEN. II. 1172-73.

## Northamptonshire.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire. In the Treasury £165. 7s. od. white. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark.

## Northampton.

\* \* \* \* \*

And the same Sheriff [Simon the son of Peter] renders account of £100 for the new Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury nothing.

And in Alms to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And in payment to the same Sheriff by the King's writ £72. 11s. 8d. which came by Robba from the King.

And he owes £25. 15s. od.

And the same Sheriff owes £6. 13s. 4d. for the aid to marry the King's daughter.

William Andeg owes 17s. for the mint.

R. Antl the Clerk renders account of £4 for the mint  
In the Treasury 40s.

And he owes 40s.

Concerning the aid to marry the King's daughter.

Regin the son of Urli owes 27d. on the part of six knights.

Robert de Chokes owes 40s. for the same aid.

The same Sheriff renders account of 22s. 1d. for the common assize of Northamptonshire. In the Treasury 9s. And he owes 13s. 1d.

ANNO 20 HEN. II. 1173-74.

## Northamptonshire.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of 28s. 8d. for the old Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

The same Sheriff renders account of 100s. for the Farm of the land which belonged to Hugh Gobun in Northampton. And of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton.

And also in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark in the Borough of Northampton. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And in the payment of ten Knights<sup>40</sup> residing in Northampton Castle with the same Sheriff from the Morrow of Saint Michael last year [30 September 1173] until the Feast of Saint Peter ad vincula in the following year [1 August 1174] namely for three hundred and six days £153 by the King's writ. And in payment to one hundred and eight Knights who were with Humphry de Bohun<sup>41</sup> the Constable £118 by the writs of Richard de Lucy.

And he hath [paid] in surplusage £7. 7s. od. which are accounted to him within the account of the Assize of Demesne.<sup>42</sup>

ANNO 21 HEN. II. 1174-75.

Northamptonshire.

Hugh de Gundevile<sup>43</sup> renders account for the Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £67. 6s. 8d., tale.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple in the Borough of Northampton one mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Kingshale.

And for the corrodij of the younger Queen<sup>44</sup> for twenty eight days £30 by the King's writ.

<sup>40</sup> These Knights probably formed part of the garrison of the castle.

<sup>41</sup> This Humphrey de Bohun is the first recorded constable of the Castle at Northampton. He was the ancestor of Humphry de Bohun, Earl of Essex, Hereford, and Northampton.

<sup>42</sup> An Assize held to determine the right of litigants to demesnes or any real estate.

<sup>43</sup> Hugh de Gundevile was sheriff from 1174 to 1177.

<sup>44</sup> The corrodij or allowance for meat, drink, and clothing for Margaret, daughter of Lewis, King of France, who married Henry, the second son of King Henry II. As Prince Henry was crowned King with his father in 1171, Princess Margaret was rightly called the younger Queen.

ANNO 22 HEN. II. 1175-76.

Northamptonshire.

Hugh de Gundevile renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £96. os. 5d.  
 And in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple in the Borough of Northampton one mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the meadow of Chingeshala. And in the payments of John the Clerk of E. Queen of Spain<sup>\*\*</sup> who abode in the Schools at Northampton 6s. for three weeks by the King's writ. And to Hugh Saloman 12s. for the armour which he conveyed from Huntingdon to Northampton by the King's writ. And for conveying treasure to Woodstock to Geddington and to London 7s. by Waleran and Odo de Fawsley. And for executing justice upon William de Helford 15d.

And he is quit.

ANNO 23 HEN. II. 1176-77.

Northamptonshire.

Hugh de Gundevile renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £97. 6s. 8d. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple in the Borough of Northampton one mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Chingeshala.

And he is quit.

ANNO 24 HEN. II. 1177-78.

Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard<sup>\*\*</sup> renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

<sup>\*\*</sup> Eleanor, daughter of Henry II., who in 1170 married Alfonso III. of Spain.<sup>\*\*</sup> Thomas the son of Bernard was sheriff from 1177 to 1184.

## Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £97. 6s. 8d. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple in the Borough of Northampton one mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the meadow of Kingshale. And he is quit.

ANNO 25 HEN. II. 1178-79.

## Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £74. 15s. 8d. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple in the Borough of Northampton one mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in Kingshale.

And for the works of the King's kitchen and houses in Northampton by the view of Henry the son of Thiard and of Philip the son of Jordan £7 by the King's writ. And for cloths and for the use of the King's servants £7. 17s. 6d. by the King's writ. And in his surplusage for the Farm of Higham £7. 6s. 6d. And for conveying the King's venison from Brigstock to Canterbury 11s. by the King's writ. And for the King's works at Silveston 16s. by the King's writ. And he is quit.

ANNO 26 HEN. II. 1179-80.

## Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £97. 6s. 8d. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of the same town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Kingshale.

And he is quit.

ANNO 27 HEN. II. 1180-81.

## Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £97. 6s. 8d. tale. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Chingshale.

And he is quit.

ANNO 28 HEN. II. 1181-82.

## Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £24. 17s. 7d. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Chingeshale. And for the repairs of the Tower of Northampton<sup>47</sup> by the view of Philip the son of Jordan and of William the son of Raimond £64. 0s. 13d. by the King's writ. And he owes £8. 8s. The same Sheriff renders account of 60s. for the Mint of Northampton for this year. And of 30s. for the same mint for half a year. He hath paid the same into the Treasury in two tallies.

And he is quit.

ANNO 29 HEN. II. 1182-83.

## Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard renders account for the Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

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<sup>47</sup> This tower stood near the Derngate on the south-east of the town, from whence signals could be passed to the Castle on the other side.

## Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £62. 5s. 6d. tale. And in Alms to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same town 2os. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 2os. in the Meadow of Chingeshala.

And for the repairs of the Tower of Northampton by the view of William the son of Rain and Philip the son of Jordan £35. os. 14d. by the King's writ. And he is quit.

And the same Sheriff renders account of £8. 8s. for the Farm of Northampton. For work for the aforesaid Tower £8. 8s. by the beforessaid brief and view. And he is quit.

And the same Sheriff renders account of 6os. for the Mint of Northampton for that year. And of 3os. for the same. He hath paid it into the Treasury. And he is quit.

Alan de Coventry renders account of half a mark for the old manufacture in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid it into the Treasury. And he is quit.

William the son of Remund renders account of 2s. for one mes-

susage in the same Borough. He hath paid it into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

ANNO 30 HEN. II. 1183-84.

## Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £94 tale. And in Alms to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 2os. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 2os. in the Meadow of Chingeshale.

And for working at the Hall of Northampton 3s. by the King's writ. And he owes 63s. 8d. tale. The same renders account of the same debt. He hath paid it into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 6os. for the Mint of Northampton for this year. He hath paid it into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

Alan de Coventry renders account of 2s. for the old Mint in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.  
 William the son of Raymond renders account of 2s. for one messuage in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.

## ANNO 31 HEN. II. 1184-85.

Northamptonshire.

Geoffrey the son of Peter<sup>48</sup> renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

Northampton.

William the son of Remund and William the son of Alfwin renders account of £120 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £117. 6s. 8d. tale.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 2os. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 2os. in the Meadow of Chingeshala.

And they are quit.

The Burgesses of Northampton render account of 200 marks for having their town of the King in Capite.<sup>49</sup> In the Treasury 100 marks.

And they owe 100 marks.

Brother Alan of Coventry renders account of half a mark for the old Farm in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid it into the Treasury.

He is quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 6os. for the Mint of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

William the son of Remunde renders account of 2s. for one messuage in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

The same Sheriff (renders account) owes 16s. 11d. for wastes and assarts<sup>50</sup> and Pleas of the Forest in Northamptonshire by Alan de Nevill.

<sup>48</sup> Geoffrey the son of Peter was sheriff from 1184 to 1190.

<sup>49</sup> This was an additional sum that was paid by the burgesses for the privilege of holding their Town immediately from the King.

<sup>50</sup> Parts of the forest from which trees and undergrowth had been destroyed.

ANNO 32 HEN. II. 1185-86.

Northamptonshire.

Geoffrey, the son of Peter £14. 5s. od. white for the old Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \*

Northampton.

William the son of Remund and William the son of Alwin render account of £120 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £117. 6s. 8d. tale.

And in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the meadow of Chingeshala.

And they are quit.

The same Sheriff's render accounts of 6os. for the Mint of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And they are quit.

William the son of Remund renders account of 2s. for one mes-  
suage in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

The Burgesses of Northampton render account of 100 Marks for having their town at farm of the King in Chief. They have paid the same into the Treasury.

And they are quit.

ANNO 33 HEN. II. 1186-87.

Northamptonshire.

Geoffrey the son of Peter renders account of £14. 5s. white for the old Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \*

Northampton.

William the son of Remund and William the son of Alwin render account of £120 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £117. 6s. 8d. tale,

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple, 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Kingshala.

And they are quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 6os. for the Mint of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

William the son of Remund renders account of 2s. for one messuage in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 8s. for a certain purpresture<sup>61</sup> in Northampton which Peter the son of Adam holds. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Maud Gobion holds. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Reginald the son of Reimund holds. He hath paid the same into the Treasury in three tallies.

And he is quit.

ANNO 34 HEN. II. 1187-88.

Northamptonshire.

Geoffrey the son of Peter owes £14. 5s. white for the old Farm of Northamptonshire.

\* \* \* \* \*

Northampton.

Robert de Leicester renders account of £120 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £117. 6s. tale.

And in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town, 20s. And to Robert the son of Hugh the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Chingeshala.

And he is quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 60s. for the Mint of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

William the son of Remund renders account of 2s. for one messuage in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 8d. for a certain purpresture in Northampton. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Maud Gobion holds. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Reginald the son of Remund holds. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Ralph the son of Meinfelin holds. He hath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.

ANNO 1 RIC. I. 1189-90.

Northampton.

Robert de Leicester and Gilbert the son of Durand render account

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"A building or inclosure made to the prejudice of the King, probably being an encroachment on the highway.

of £120 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £117. 6s. 8d. tale.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 Mark. And to the Monks of the same town 20s. And to Robert the son of Hugh the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Chingeshala.

And they are quit.

The same Sheriff Geoffrey the son of Peter renders account of 60s. for the Mint of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.

William the son of Reimund renders account of 2s. for one messuage in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 8d. for a certain purpresture in Northampton. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Margar Gubion holds. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Reginald the son Reimund holds. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Ralph the son of Meinfelin holds. He hath paid the same into the Treasury in four tallies. And he is quit.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nicholas the brother of Alan of Coventry owes 20 Marks for one messuage in Northampton, by the promise of his brother.

Ralph de Glanvill owes 50 Marks which he acknowledges that he hath received of Samuel the Jew of Northampton who owed the same by agreement between Margaret of London and her sons and daughters.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Township of Northampton renders account of 30 Marks because they held Pleas which pertained to the Sheriff by writ directed to the Sheriff. The same hath been paid into the Treasury. And [the Township] is quit.

## Charter of 1st Richard I.

18TH NOVEMBER, 1189.

THIS charter, the first granted to Northampton, is a very early one. Even the City of London itself only possesses three of earlier date. The charter like others of this period is directed to all the dignitaries of the great national council, and is almost identical with the charter of the same date, granted to the citizens of London, except that no provision is made for hunting grounds for the Northampton burgesses.

The year in which this charter was granted is technically known as the time of "legal memory": inasmuch as it was necessary in order to establish a custom in England to prove that it had existed from this remote period, or in other words "from time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." This period has now, however, been shortened to twenty or thirty years.

### *Text of the Charter.*

Ric<sup>di</sup> grā Rex Angl Dux Norm<sup>an</sup> Aq<sup>ui</sup>t Com<sup>an</sup> An<sup>ct</sup> Archiēpis Epi<sup>s</sup>.  
Abbis. Com Bař. Justic Vič. & Oñib; minist& fidelib; suif  
Franç & Angl. Salt. Sciatif nos gcessisse Burgensib; nr̄is de  
Norhañt qd mull eo placit ex muros Burgi Norhañt de nullo  
placito. p<sup>o</sup> placita de tenur<sup>o</sup> extiorib; exceptis monetar &  
minist& nr̄is. Concessim; & eis q'etanciā murdri Infra Burg &  
Jn Porsoka & qd null eo faciat duellū & qd de plac ad  
Coronā ptinentib; se possint disfronare sedm gsuetudine Ciuiū  
Ciuitatis Long. & qd Infra muros Burgi illi; nemo capiat  
hospiitiū p vim ut p lib<sup>o</sup> atonē marescalli. Hoc & eis gcessim; qd  
oñis Burgenses Norhañt sint qleti de theloneo & lestagio p Tota  
Angliā & p Port<sup>o</sup> marif. Et qd null de mia pecuie Judicet ut  
sedm legē qm hüt Ciues nr̄i Long & qd Jn Burgo illo Jn nullo  
placito sit meskininga & qd husting semel tañt Jn Ebdomado

teneat & qđ lras suas & tenuras & vadia sua & debita sua Omia  
 Juste hant q'cumq; eis debeat. Et de fr̄is suis & tenur q̄ Infra  
 Burg sunt rectū eis teneat sedm ḡsuetudinē Burgi & de Ōmib;  
 debitif suis q̄ accomodata sūrint apd Norhañt & de vadiis ibit  
 scis placita apd Norhatoñ teneanl. Et siqf Jn tota Anglia thel-  
 oneñ ut ḡsuetudinē ab hominib; Norhañt cepit p̄eq; ipē a recto  
 defecit p̄posit; Norhañt Namitt Jn apd Norhañt capiat In sup  
 & ad Emendaconē illiž Burgi eis concessim; qđ sint q'eti de  
 Brudtol & de Childwite & de hieresglue & de Scottale. Ita qđ  
 p̄posit; Norhañt ut aliqf aliž Balliuž Scottale nō faciat. Has  
 pdictas ḡsuetudines eis ḡcesim; & Ōms alias libtates & lib̄as  
 ḡsuetudines qđ h̄uerunt ut h̄ut Ciues ūri Lond̄. qu meliores ut  
 lib̄iores h̄uer sedm libtates Lond̄. & leges Burgi Norhañt Qr  
 volum; & firmi p̄cipim; qđ ipi & h̄edes eož n̄ Omia pdicta  
 h̄editorie hant & teneant de nob & h̄edib; nr̄is reddendo p  
 Añ centū & viginti libras nūo de villa Norhañt cū Ōmib;  
 ptinen; suis ad Seacem nr̄m Jn īmino Sēi Michaet p manū  
 p̄positi Norhañt & Burgesse Norhañt faciant p̄positū quē  
 voluint de se p Annu. q. sit Idonez nob & eis. T. Hug  
 Dunelm. Johē Norwiē. Hubto Sar̄ Epiš. Com Alb̄. Com Witto de  
 Arundel. Com Riē de Clara. Com Hamet de Warenn. Walſo  
 filio Rodb Dāt apd Sem Edmūdū. xvij. die Nouemb̄ p manū  
 Witti Electi Elyensis Cancellarij nr̄i Regni nr̄i Anno PRIMO.

*Indorsed.*

Ista carta allocat. p Johēm Peache Maiorem de Ciuitatis Londoñ  
 & Aldermannos eiudem Ciuitatis Et intratur in camara Gyhald  
 eiudm Ciuitati videlicet in libro cū l̄fa G folio centesimo Witto  
 de Holbech & Jacobo de Thane tunc tempis vicecomitibz Londoñ.

*Translation.*

Richard by the Grace of God King of England Duke of Normandy Aquitain Earl of Anjou to the Archbishops Bishops Abbotts Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs and all his Ministers and faithful men French and English Greeting know ye that we have granted to our Burgesses of Northampton that none of them plead without the walls of the Borough of Northampton of any plea except pleas of outholdings<sup>12</sup> except our moneyers and ministers Also we have

<sup>12</sup> Pleas concerning lands and tenements lying outside the town.

granted to them acquittance of murder<sup>53</sup> within the Borough and in portsoken<sup>54</sup> and that none of them make duel<sup>55</sup> and that of pleas appertaining to the Crown they may justify according to the custom of the Citizens of the City of London<sup>56</sup> and that within the walls of the same Borough no one take hostellage<sup>57</sup> by force or by livery of the Marshall And this we have granted to them that all the Burgesses of Northampton be quit of toll<sup>58</sup> and Lastage<sup>59</sup> through all England and by the ports of the sea And that no one of Amerceament of money be adjudged but according to the law which our Citizens of London had And that in the same Borough there be in no plea miskenning<sup>60</sup> And that the Hustings<sup>61</sup> be held only once in the week and that they justly have all their Lands and Holdings and pledges and Debts whomsoever owe to them And of their Lands and Holdings which are within the Borough right be kept to them according to the custom of the Borough and of all their Debts which shall be lent at Northampton and of the Pledges there made pleas be held at Northampton And if any one in All England take toll or custom from the men of Northampton after he have failed of right the Reeve of Northampton<sup>62</sup> shall take distress thereof at Northampton Moreover for the amendment of the same Borough we have granted to them that they be quit of brudtol<sup>63</sup> and of

<sup>53</sup> Freedom from the penalty which was exacted from the inhabitants of a town or hundred, wherein a murder had been committed.

<sup>54</sup> Portsoken comprised the liberties of a town outside the walls.

<sup>55</sup> To make duel was to challenge to combat in order to prove a cause.

<sup>56</sup> The custom of the City of London, being the first city in the land, then, as now, established customs for other towns.

<sup>57</sup> Hostellage was the compelling of an inn keeper to maintain any person without payment. The Marshall was one of the King's officers, whose duty was to provide lodgings for the sovereign and his retinue.

<sup>58</sup> Toll was a sum paid for passing over certain roads or bridges, entering certain boroughs, or exposing wares for sale.

<sup>59</sup> Lastage, was a duty levied on wares sold by the last.

<sup>60</sup> Miskenning was a mistake in the plea, for which a fine had to be paid.

<sup>61</sup> Hustings, a local court held before the reeve or mayor of the Town. This was a court of record and had existed from very early times.

<sup>62</sup> The reeve was the most important officer in a town, being the successor of the Saxon gerefa or steward. He presided at the court of hustings, collected the King's dues, and generally ruled the town. The right therefore given by this charter to the burgesses to choose their own reeve was a most important one.

<sup>63</sup> Brudtol, or portage was a toll for passing over or under a bridge.

childwite<sup>64</sup> and of heresgive<sup>65</sup> and of scotale<sup>66</sup> so that the Reeve of Northampton or any other bailiff do not make Scotale We have granted to them the aforesaid customs and all other liberties and free customs which our Citizens of London<sup>67</sup> had or have when they had them best or more freely according to the liberties of London and the Laws of the Borough of Northampton Wherefore we will and firmly command that they and their Heirs all the things aforesaid have and hold hereditarily of us and our Heirs rendering therefore by the year one hundred and twenty pounds by tale for the town of Northampton with all its appurtenances at our Exchequer at the term of St. Michael by the hands of the Reeve of Northampton And the Burgesses of Northampton shall make a Reeve whom they will of themselves by the year who may be proper for us and them Witness Hugh Bishop of Durham<sup>68</sup> John Bishop of Norwich<sup>69</sup> Hubert Bishop of Salisbury<sup>70</sup> Earl Albrs<sup>71</sup> Earl William de Arundel<sup>72</sup> Earl Richard de Clare<sup>73</sup> Earl Hameline de Warenne<sup>74</sup> Walter the son of Rodbert Given at Saint Edmunds the eighteenth day of November by the hands

<sup>64</sup> Childwite, was the penalty for begetting a child on a lord's bond woman.

<sup>65</sup> Heresgive or yeresgive was probably a compulsory new year's gift to the sovereign.

<sup>66</sup> Scotale was probably a compulsory payment for a license to brew or sell ale.

<sup>67</sup> This provision imported into this charter all the extensive and valuable concessions contained in the charter of Henry I. to the citizens of London.

<sup>68</sup> Hugh Pudsey, King Stephen's nephew, was Archdeacon of Winchester, and Chancellor of York: Bishop of Durham from 1153 to 1195. He was buried in the Chapter House at Durham.

<sup>69</sup> John of Oxford, Dean of Salisbury, King's Chaplain; Bishop of Norwich, 1175 to 1200.

<sup>70</sup> Hubert Walter, Dean of York, accompanied Richard I. to the Holy Land; he was Bishop of Salisbury, 1189 to 1193, when he was translated to Canterbury. He died in 1205, and was buried in his own Cathedral.

<sup>71</sup> Perhaps this was the son of Earl William de Arundel.

<sup>72</sup> William de Albiney was born about 1176, and succeeded as Earl of Arundel and Chichester in 1176, and was created Earl of Sussex 1177, he became a Crusader and died in 1196. "Erat magnus & fortis."

<sup>73</sup> Richard Fitz-Gilbert, the cousin of King William I., the Earl of Clare, Lord of Tonbridge, and Lord of Bienfaite and Orbec in Normandy, was born before 1035, and died before 1090.

<sup>74</sup> Hamelin, the natural son of Geoffrey Count of Anjou, was born before 1151, he succeeded as Earl of Surrey and Warenne in 1164, and died in 1202.

of William the Elect of Ely<sup>75</sup> Our Chancellor in the first year  
of our reign.

*Indorsed.*

This Charter is allowed by John Peeche<sup>76</sup> Mayor of the City of London and the Aldermen of the same City; and is entered in the Chamber of Guildhall of the same city to wit—in the Book with the Letter "G" folio one hundred.

William de Holbech and James de Tame then Sheriffs of London.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment 16 inches wide, and 6½ inches deep; the writing is rounded in character, and unornamented; the lower fold is cut for three attached seals, but these have now disappeared.

On the back is written in a later hand:—

"Ric: 1<sup>os</sup>

" 18 Nov : j<sup>mo</sup> Rici j<sup>mi</sup>

"Grant to the Burgeses of Northampton of several Priviledges and Immunitys & particularly that they shall be free from Toll and Lastage throughout all England and the Sea Ports reserving the yearly Rent of 120" payable to the Crown for the same."

"1"

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The numbers indorsed on the charters now in the borough, refer to the list of the muniments made by Mr. Stewart A. Moore in 1864.

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<sup>75</sup> William de Longo Campo, Chancellor and Justiciary, and Bishop of Ely from 1190 to 1197. He died at Poitiers, and was buried there in the Cistercian Abbey.

<sup>76</sup> John Peeche was Lord Mayor of London in 1361; William Holbech and James Tame being Sheriffs the same year.

## Charter of 1st John.

17TH APRIL 1200.

THE greater part of this charter is word for word the same as the last: but this grant contains a further provision for the appointment of two burgesses as reeves; and of four discreet men of the Town to keep the pleas of the crown and to oversee the reeves.

### *Text of the Charter.*

Carta bvgensjvm de Norhamton.

J. Di grā Rex Angt. &c. Omnidb; fidelib; suif Salt. Sciatis nos  
gcessisse burg n̄is de Nořh qđ n̄is eoꝝ placitet ex'. muros burgi  
de Norhamton de aliq;. placito pꝫ placita de ten'is extiorib;  
exeptis monetar & ministis n̄is. Concessim⁹. & eis q'etanciam  
murd⁹ infra burgū & in Porthloka & qđ n̄is eoꝝ faciat duellu.  
& qđ de placitis ad corona ptinentibus se possint distronare sedm  
consuetudinē ciuiſ ciuit⁹ Long⁹. & qđ inf⁹. muros burgi nemo  
capiat hospiciū p vi. ut p libatioňe marescalli Hoc & eis  
gceslim⁹. qđ om̄s Burgens Norhamton sint queti de Theloneo &  
Lestagio p totam Angt. & port⁹. Maris & qđ n̄is de mia pecunie  
indicet⁹. nisi s̄cdm legē qū habuerunt ciuif n̄i Long⁹ tempore  
H. Regis patris n̄i & qđ in Burgo illo in nullo placito sit  
meskenninga. & qđ Husting semel t̄m in Ebdomoda teneat⁹. Et  
qđ ſras & tenuras & vadia sua & debita sua omia iuste hañt  
quicunq eis debeat. Et de ſrī ſuif & tenuris q̄ inf⁹. Burgum ſi  
rectum eis teneat⁹ ſcdm gſuetudinē Burgi. Et de omnib; debitib;  
ſuif que accomodata fuerint ap̄ Norhampt & de vadiis ibidē ſcis  
placita ap̄ Nořh teneant . Et siq's in tota Angt Thēlonen ul  
gſuetūd ab hominib; Nořh cepit postq; ipi a recto defec⁹it.  
p̄poſit⁹ Nořh namū in capiat ap̄ Nořh Jufup & ad emdatiōne

illius Burgi eis gcessim⁹ qđ sint q'eti de Brudtoll & de Gildewit & de Yereslue & de Scotalle . Ita qđ p̄polit⁹ Nořh ut aliquis alij⁹ balliuſ ſcotale ſio faciat . Has p̄dictas qſuetud eis gcessim⁹ & oſ alias lib⁹ & lib⁹ . qſuetud q̄s habueūt ciuei nři Lond⁹ . qū meliores & libiores habuerunt tempe . H . Rēg pat' nře ſedm lib⁹ . Lond⁹ & leges burgi Norhamtoñ Q̄re volum⁹ . & firmit⁹ . p̄cipim⁹ . qđ ipi & Hedes eoz n̄ oia p̄dicta hēditarie teneant & habeant de nob⁹ & hediib⁹ nřis reddendo p añn Cent⁹ & xx ſi mio de viii Nořhampton & omib⁹ ptis suis ad ſecm nřm i lmino S̄ei Mich p manū p̄positi Nořh . Et Burgens faciant p̄positu quē voluerint de ſe pām q̄ sit ydone⁹ nob⁹ & eis hoc m⁹ ſelt qđ ide burg nři p gune ḡiliū villate ſue eligant duos de legaliorib⁹ & diſcretorib⁹ burg ville ſue & p̄ſentement eos capitali Justic nře ap̄ Westm q̄ bū & fideli⁹ . cuſtodiant p̄ſitutram ville Nořh . Et n̄ ammueant⁹ qđin in baſita ſua bū ſe geſſerint n̄ p gūne ḡiliū villate ſue . volum⁹ & qđ in eod burgo p gune ḡiliū villate ſue eligant q̄tuor de legaliorib⁹ & diſcretorib⁹ hominib⁹ de burgo ad cuſtod placita Corone nře & alia q̄ ad nos p̄tinent in eod Burgo & ad videndū qđ p̄positi illius burgi iuſte & legitimate tractent tam paupes quam diuifet . T . Willo Mareſcall . Com de penbrok Robto Com Leic . W . Com Sarr & multis aliis . Dat p mañ Sim Archid Welleñs apud Windlesor xvijdie Ap̄ilis . anno regni nři primo .

*Translation.*

A Charter of the Burgesses of Northampton.

John by the Grace of God King of England &c To all his faithful men Greeting Know ye that we have granted to our Burgesses of Northampton that none of them plead without the walls of the Borough of Northampton of any plea except pleas of outholdings except our Moneyers and Ministers Also we have granted to them acquittance of murder within the Borough and in portsoken And that none of them make Duel And that of pleas appertaining to the Crown they may justify according to the custom of the Citizens of the City of London and that within the walls of the Borough no one take Hostellage by force or by delivery of the Marshall And this we have granted to them that all the Burgesses of Northampton be quit of Toll and Lastage through all

England and the ports of the Sea And that no one of amerceament of Money be adjudged but according to the Law which our Citizens of London had in the time of King Henry our father and that in the same Borough there be no plea miskenning. And that the Hustings be held only once in the week And that they justly have all their Lands and holdings and their pledges and debts whomsoever owe to them And of their Lands and holdings which are within the Borough right be kept to them according to the custom of the Borough And of all their debts which shall be lent at Northampton and of the pledges there made pleas be held at Northampton and if any one in all England take Toll or Custom from the Men of Northampton after he have failed from right the Reeve of Northampton shall take distress thereof at Northampton Moreover for the amendment of the same Borough we have granted to them that they be quit of Burdtol and of Childwite and of Yeresgive and of Scotale so that the Reeve of Northampton or any other Bailiff do not make Scotale We have granted to them the aforesaid customs and all other liberties and free customs which our citizens of London had when they had them best and more freely in the time of King Henry our father according to the liberties of London and the Laws of the Borough of Northampton Wherefore we will and firmly command that they and their heirs all these things aforesaid hold and have hereditarily of us and our heirs rendering by the Year one hundred and twenty pounds by tale for the Town of Northampton with all its appurtenances at our Exchequer at the term of Saint Michael by the hands of the Reeve of Northampton And the Burgesses shall make a Reeve whom they will of themselves by the year who may be proper for us and them with this only to wit that our same Burgesses by the Common Council of their Town may choose two of the more lawful and discreet Burgesses of their Town and present them to our Chief Justice at Westminster who shall well and faithfully keep the Reeveship of the Town of Northampton and they shall not be amoved so long as they well conduct themselves in their Bailiwick unless by the Common Council of their Town Also we will that in the same Borough by the Common Council of their town there be chosen four of the more lawful and discreet men of the Borough to keep the pleas of our Crown and other things which pertain to us in the same Borough and to see that the Reeves of the same

Borough justly and lawfully treat as well the poor as the rich  
Witness William Marshall Earl of Pembroke<sup>77</sup> Robert Earl of  
Leicester<sup>78</sup> William Earl of Salisbury<sup>79</sup> and many others given  
by the hand of Simon Archdeacon of Wells<sup>80</sup> at Windsor the  
seventeenth day of April in the first year of our reign.

This charter is not with the other muniments of the borough  
and has probably been destroyed. The preceding transcript has  
been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office in  
London, where it is contained in a roll with divers charters of  
other towns, and is referred to as:—

*Cartæ Antiquæ "G." 15.*

<sup>77</sup> William the Marshall was born before 1153, he was Earl of Pembroke and  
Striguil, Lord of Leinster in Ireland, and Lord of Orbec and Longueville in Nor-  
mandy, and he died in 1219. He was "memorable for the great care he had of  
King Henry III., in his minority; and more memorable for the little care that  
destiny had of his posterity; for leaving his five sons behind him, they all lived  
to be earls successively, yet all died without issue."

<sup>78</sup> Robert de Bréteuil, Earl of Leicester, and Lord of Hinckley, Bréteuil, Paci  
and the Honour of Grantmesnil, was born after 1168, and was the Patron of  
Luffield Priory in this County, he died in 1206. He was "prostantissimus comes."

<sup>79</sup> William Lungespée, the natural son of King Henry II., was born before 1176,  
and created Earl of Salisbury in 1198, he was Lord of Ambresbury and the Honour  
of Eve. He died in 1226.

<sup>80</sup> Simon de Welles was Bishop of Chichester from 1204 to 1207.

## Letters Patent of 3rd Henry III.

6TH NOVEMBER, 1218.

BY these letters addressed to the sheriff the King gave directions concerning the fair at Northampton, and appointed bailiffs to superintend the same.

*Text of these Letters Patent.*

D feria Norhañt.

Rex Falk de Breānt & bailli Norhant salut sciatis nos cōstituisse  
dilectos & fideles fratres Henr de Pente Audomar & Rad de Nor-  
wic etiūcum baillios nros ad custodiend seria Norhañt & disponeñt  
omia q ad nos p̄tinent in pdēa seria. Et Ido vob mandam⁹ qd  
ad hoc cōsiliū & auxiliū q̄utumcumq potit⁹ eis ipendatis. T.  
Cōm. W. maſ rectore nro & Regni nri ap Westm. vj. die  
Nouembri. Ano. ī t̄tio. p ipm Cōm & dām P. Winton ep̄m  
Et mandat⁹ est eis qd cōsiliū & auxiliū pdcif. H. & R. q̄ntum  
cumq potlunt ipendant ad capient Jn seria Norhañt Lanas &  
coria & pannos ad opus dñi Regis qz dus Rex m̄catorib; de hiis  
satifaē cōpetn̄t.  
Et mandat⁹ est m̄catoribus & aliis existitib; Jn seria Norhañt qd  
in omib; q ad pdcam seria ptenent pdci⁹ H. & R. tanq baillis  
dūi Regis Intendentes sint & respondentes.  
Mandat⁹ est & omib; m̄catoribus existitib; in seria Norhañt qd  
Lanas coria & pannos q pdēi bailli cape volūnt in pdēa seria  
ad opz dñi Rēg eis Libat⁹ & sū difficultate Libent scit⁹ qd dñs  
Rex de p̄cio eoꝝ eis in bri satifaciet cōpetn̄t.

*Translation.*

Concerning the Fair of Northampton.

The King to Falk de Breant<sup>81</sup> and the Bailiffs of Northampton

<sup>81</sup> Falk or Fulk de Breant was sheriff of Northamptonshire for the years from 1216 to 1224 inclusive. For a short time he was in possession of Bedford Castle.

Greeting Know ye that we have appointed our beloved and trusty Henry de Pente "Audomař" and Ralph de Norwich<sup>62</sup> Clerk our Bailiffs to keep the Fair of Northampton and to dispose all things which to us pertain in the aforesaid Fair And therefore we do command you that ye do in this matter render them whatsoever counsel and aid ye can Witness William Earl Marshall<sup>63</sup> Regent of us and of our Realm at Westminster the 6th day of November in the third year of our reign by the said Earl and the Lord P. Bishop of Winchester.<sup>64</sup>

And it is commanded to the same that they do render to the aforesaid H. and R. whatsoever counsel and aid they can to take in Northampton Fair to the King's use wools and hides and cloths insomuch as the Lord the King will fully satisfy the Merchants therefore.

And it is commanded to the Merchants and others being at Northampton Fair that they be in all things which to the aforesaid Fair pertain attendant and respondent to the aforesaid H. and R. as the Bailiffs of the Lord the King.

It is also commanded to all the Merchants being at Northampton Fair that they do liberally and without difficulty deliver the wools hides and cloths which the aforesaid Bailiffs shall take in the aforesaid Fair to the use of the Lord the King knowing that he the Lord the King will shortly fully satisfy them for the price thereof.

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Rot: Pat: 3<sup>rd</sup> Hen. III. p. 1. m. 6.*

<sup>62</sup> Ralph de Norwich was rector of Stanwick, Northamptonshire, from 1233 to 1238.

<sup>63</sup> For Note as to William Earl Marshall, see page 33.

<sup>64</sup> Peter de Ropibus Knight was appointed Bishop of Winchester in 1205. He was a crusader in 1226, when he restored the Church of St. Thomas and the fortifications of Joppa. He founded a chapel in the church of St. Mary Overy, and St. Thomas' Hospital, London. He died in 1238 and was buried at Winchester.

## Letters Patent of 9th Henry III.

24TH DECEMBER, 1224.

BY these letters, also directed to the sheriff, the King granted to the burgesses of Northampton the right to levy tolls on carts coming into the town, and goods sold there, and to apply the proceeds towards inclosing the town with a wall.

*Text of these Letters Patent.*

D villa Norhamt Claudenda.

Rex viē Norhamt & oibz de eodē com̄ salt Sciatis qđ concessim⁹  
burgensibz nr̄is Norhamt in auxiliū ville Norhamt claudende  
ad seccitatē & tuicionē ejusdē ville simul & parciū adjacenciū qđ  
capiāt singliū septimanis semel usq in tres annos a die Natalis  
Dñi anno regni nři nono de qlibz carecta sive carro ejusdē  
com̄ Norhamt ferente res venales in eandē villā Norhamt ibide  
vendendas unū obolū & de qlibz carecta sive carro altius com̄  
ferente res venales in eandē villā ibetē vendendas unū denař  
& de quolibz sumāgio rerū venaliū ibidem vendendarz pret'q  
de sumāgio busch unū quaſr & de quolibz equo & eqe & bove  
& vacca venali illuc ductis ad vendend unū oboř & de decē  
ovibz vt capris vt porcis venalibz illuc ductis ad vendend uň denař  
& de v ovibz vt capris vt porcis uň oboř Ita tñ qđ occōe isti⁹ gcessiois  
fire de huj⁹modi carectis carris sumāgiis eq's eq⁹b; bobus vaccis  
ovibz capris vt porcis nich capiat⁹ pt pdcm̄ l̄minū spletū set  
stati spletō l̄mino illo cadat gsuetudo illa & penit⁹ aboleat⁹ Et  
ido t' viē p̄cipim⁹ qđ hāc gcessiōem nrām clamari facias p totā  
baſtiā tua & firmi⁹ obs⁹vari usq ad l̄miñ pdcm̄ sic pdcm̄  
est T. me ipo ap̄ Bracket xxiiij die Decembr anno eodē corā  
Justic.

*Translation.*

Concerning an aid to fortify the Town of Northampton.

The King to the Sheriff of Northampton and to all the men of the same County greeting Know ye that we have granted to our Burgesses of Northampton in aid of inclosing the Town of Northampton for the security and defence of the same town together with the parts adjacent that they may take once every week for three years only from the day of the Nativity of Our Lord Wednesday [25th December 1224] in the ninth year of our reign of every cart or vehicle of the said County of Northampton conveying saleable articles to the said Town of Northampton to be there sold one halfpenny and of every cart or vehicle of another county carrying saleable articles to the said town one penny and of every horse load of saleable articles except a load of one bushel one farthing and of every horse or mare ox and cow there taken for sale one halfpenny and of ten sheep or goats or pigs there taken for sale one penny and of five sheep or goats or pigs one halfpenny so nevertheless that by reason of this our grant there be from such like carts or vehicles horse loads horses mares oxen cows sheep goats or pigs nothing be taken after the aforesaid term ended but that as soon as this term be completed the said customs cease and be utterly abolished and therefore we command you the Sheriff that you do cause this our grant to be proclaimed and strictly observed throughout your bailiwick until the term aforesaid as is aforesaid Witness myself at Brackley [Northamptonshire] the 24th day of December the said year before the Justices.

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as :—

*Rot: Pat: 9<sup>th</sup> Hen. III. p. 2. m. 8*

## Charter of 11th Henry III.

16TH MARCH, 1227.

THIS charter, which is almost word for word the same as that granted by King John, is incorporated in the charter of the 27th Edward I.; and also in the other later charters which inspect, and incorporate the same.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied the whole of the charter in Latin into that book commencing at folio 110b, hereinafter printed. There is also an early translation of the document in English, written in the same book commencing on folio 135a.

### *Translation of the Charter.*

Henry by the Grace of God King of England Lord of Ireland Duke of Normandy Aquitain and Earl of Anjou To the Archbishops Bishops Abbotts Priors Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Reeves Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting Know ye that we have granted and by our present Charter confirmed to our Burgesses of Northampton that none of them plead without the walls of the Borough of Northampton of any plea except pleas of outholdings except our moneyers and ministers Also we have granted to them acquittance of murder within the Borough and in portsoaken and that none of them make Duel and that of pleas appertaining to the Crown they may justify according to the custom of the Citizens of the City of London and that within the walls of the Borough no one take hostellage by force or by delivery of the Marshall And that all the Burgesses of Northampton be quit of toll and lastage through all England and the ports of the sea and that no one of amerceament of money be adjudged but according to the law which our Citizens of London had in the time of King Henry our Grandfather And that in the same Borough there be in no plea miskenning And

that the Hustings be held only once in the week And that they justly have all their Lands and Holdings and their pledges and debts whomsoever owe to them And of their Lands and Holdings which are written the Borough right be kept to them according to the custom of the Borough and of all their debts which shall be lent at Northampton and of the pledges there made pleas be held at Northampton and if any one in all England shall take toll or custom from the men of Northampton after he shall have failed from right the Reeve of Northampton shall take distress thereof at Northampton Moreover also for the amendment of the same Borough we have granted to them that they be quit of brudtol and of childwite and of yeresjive and of scotale so that the Reeve of Northampton or any other Bailiff do not make scotale We have granted to them these the aforesaid customs and all other liberties and free customs which our Citizens of London had when they had them best or more freely in the time of the aforesaid King Henry our Grandfather according to the liberties of London and the Laws of the Borough of Northamton Wheresore we will and firmly command that they and their heirs all these things aforesaid have and hold hereditarily of us and our heirs rendering by the year one hundred and twenty pounds by tale for the Town of Northampton with all its appurtenances at our Exchequer at the Term of Saint Michael by the hands of the Reeve of Northampton and the Burgesses of Northamton shall make a Reeve whom they will of themselves by the year who may be proper for us and them with this only to wit that the aforesaid Burgesses by the Common Council of their Town may choose two of the more lawful and discreet Burgesses of their Town and present them by their letters patent to our Chief Justice at Westminster who shall well and faithfully keep the Reeveship of the Town of Northampton and they shall not be amoved so long as they well conduct themselves in their Bailiwick unless by the common council of their town Also we will that in the same Borough of Northampton by the common council of their Town there be chosen four of the more lawful and discreet men of the Borough to keep the pleas of our Crown and other things which pertain to us in the same Borough and to see that the Reeves of the same Borough justly and lawfully treat as well the poor as the rich as the Charter of the Lord King John our Father which they have reasonably witnesseth These being

witnesses The Venerable Father Jocelyn Bishop of Bath<sup>85</sup> R. Bishop of Salisbury<sup>86</sup> Hubert de Burgh Earl of Kent<sup>87</sup> our Justiciary William the son of Warrin<sup>88</sup> Ralph the son of Nicholas Richard de Argentine our Seneschal Henry de Capel and others. Given by the hand of the Venerable Father R. Bishop of Chichester<sup>89</sup> our Chancellor at Westminster the sixteenth day of March in the eleventh year of our reign.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on parchment 11 inches wide and 13 inches deep. The writing is more regular, square, and upright than on the charter of Richard. The silk cord for the seal is worked through the lower side, but the seal itself has long since disappeared. It is endorsed:—

" 16<sup>o</sup> Marcij 11<sup>o</sup> Hen. 3.

"Grant of Hen. 3d whereby several priviledges are granted to the Burgesses of Northampton (reserving the yearly Rent of 120*l* payable for the same) & particularly that they shall be free from Toll and Lastage throughout all England & the seaports."

" 1226." " 2 "

There is also a copy of this charter in Latin, written on parchment measuring 12½ inches wide by 9 inches deep, which was apparently made soon after the original. It is only indorsed in ink:—

" 3 "

<sup>85</sup> Jocelyn de Wells or Trotman was Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury in 1206; he was an exile from 1212 to 1217 for publishing interdict; and in 1218 when Glastonbury was restored to the Abbey, Jocelyn resumed the title of Bath and Wells. He died in 1242 and was buried in the Choir of Wells Cathedral.

<sup>86</sup> Richard Poore became Bishop of Salisbury in 1217, he founded the new Cathedral in 1220, and also a Hospital at Salisbury. He was translated to Durham in 1228, and died in 1237. He is said to have been buried at Salisbury.

<sup>87</sup> Hubert de Burgh the great grandson of William, 2nd Earl of Cornwall, was born before 1180. He was created Earl of Kent 11th February, 1227, was Justiciary of England from 1215 till 1232, and he died in 1243.

<sup>88</sup> William de Warenne the son of Hamelin Earl of Surrey and Warenne was born before 1181. He succeeded as 2nd Earl of Surrey and Warenne, and died in 1240.

<sup>89</sup> Ralph Neville became Bishop of Chichester in 1223; he was Chancellor of England, and he built Lincoln's Inn in London, where he was buried in 1244.

## Letters Patent of 36th Henry III.

26TH JANUARY, 1252.

BY these letters patent, the King granted the good men of Northampton leave to levy tolls on animals and articles sold in the town, and apply the proceeds towards inclosing the same. It is similar in character to the previous grant of the 9th Henry III., printed hereinbefore on page 36, but is directed to the mayor and burgesses in lieu of the sheriff.

*Text of these Letters Patent.*

Villa Norhampton Claudenda.

¶ Maiori Burgensib; ac aliis pbis hominib; quis Norhampton salm Sciatis qd concedim<sup>9</sup> nob in auxilium ville vre de Norh claudenda qd in eade villa capiatis ad emendatoem muroz eiusdem ville de qualibet carecta ferente buscam uenate vnū q<sup>a</sup> D carecta carecta blado uenali vnum oþ D quolib<sup>b</sup> summagio buſce p ebomodam vnum oþ D quolibet summagio s<sup>t</sup> muns p ebdomodam vnū oþ D quelib<sup>b</sup> equo & equa boua & uacca vnū oþ D quolib<sup>b</sup> trusell pannoz venal ducto sup carectam ii deñ D quelib<sup>b</sup> bullione cordubam venal ii deñ D quolib<sup>b</sup> corio equi & eque bonis & uacce tannato vnū q<sup>a</sup> D qualib<sup>b</sup> carecta carcata piſce marino iiiii deñ D qualib<sup>b</sup> summagio piſciſ marim i deñ D qualib<sup>b</sup> summag<sup>b</sup> pannoz uenal i deñ D qualib<sup>b</sup> carecta carnib<sup>b</sup> falsis uenalib<sup>b</sup> ii deñ D qualib<sup>b</sup> dol vnū Cin<sup>b</sup>ium uanal uendente in eande villam al c<sup>n</sup>ſenente p eande ii deñ D qualib<sup>b</sup> facco lane venal iiiii deñ D q<sup>b</sup>lib<sup>b</sup> coreo equi & eque bonis & uacce & nō tannato vnū q<sup>a</sup> D x ouib<sup>b</sup> cape & porciſ uenditif vnū deñ D x pellib<sup>b</sup> oum lanaciſ & uenditif viii deñ D qlib<sup>b</sup> balello carcata m<sup>b</sup>candisſ uenalib<sup>b</sup> ad pdcam uillam uenientib<sup>b</sup> vnū oþ D qualib<sup>b</sup> an<sup>b</sup>io pond<sup>b</sup>is scilic de centena vnu den D qualib<sup>b</sup> affisa weyde venditi vnū den

D quolibz asco sal uendle vnum ob D duobz milibz cepe venditis vnū q. D quolibz q. reid bladi ducto p aq'm & vendito vnū q. D quolibz millenario allecis vnū ob D q'libz summa allij venditi vnū ob D qualibz cencena bordi vend q deñ de q'libz cencena de lacis venditis vnū q. D quolibz carro & caretca vendita viii ob D qualibz mola vendita vnū deñ D q'libz peca silau vnū ob Jn Cui<sup>3</sup> duratura a sexto paſch anno &c.c. xxxvi p duos annos sequentes T R apd Selueston xxvi die Jan p R

*Translation.*

For inclosing the Town of Northampton.

The King to his Mayor Burgesses and other his good men of Northampton greeting Know ye that we have granted to you in aid of inclosing your town of Northampton that ye do take in the same town for the amendment of the walls thereof of every cart carrying brushwood for sale one farthing of every cart load of corn for sale one halfpenny of every horse load of brushwood by the week one halfpenny of every horse load of straw by the week one halfpenny of every horse and mare ox and cow sold one halfpenny of every truss of cloth conveyed by cart for sale two pence of every weight of Cordulean leather for sale two pence of every tanned hide of horse and mare ox and cow one farthing of every cart laden with sea fish four pence of every horse load of sea fish one penny of every horse load of cloths for sale one penny of every cart laden with salt meat for sale two pence of every cask of ashes or wine coming to the said town for sale or passing through the same two pence of every sack of wool for sale four pence of every untanned hide of horse and mare ox and cow one farthing of ten sheep goats and pigs sold one penny of ten sheep skins tanned and sold one penny of every boat coming to the said town laden with merchandize for sale one halfpenny of every hundred weight one penny of every size of wood sold one penny of every boat load of salt for sale one halfpenny of two thousand onions sold one farthing of every quarter of corn conveyed by water and sold one farthing of every thousand of herrings one halfpenny of every load of garlick sold one halfpenny of every hundred of boards sold one penny of every hundred of buckets sold one farthing of every car and cart sold one halfpenny of every millstone sold one penny of every stone of flax one half-

penny In testimony whereof &c to continue from the Feast of Easter in the 36th year for two years following Witness the King at Silveston<sup>20</sup> the 26th day of January By the King.

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Rot. Pat. 36<sup>th</sup> Hen. III. m. 12.*

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<sup>20</sup> There was anciently a royal mansion house within the liberties of Silverston, Northamptonshire. Many of the Plantagenet Kings resided at this lodge, but even when Bridges wrote all traditions of the building had passed away.

## Charter of 39th Henry III.

7TH APRIL, 1255.

BY this charter the King granted to the burgesses that neither they nor their goods should be arrested for any debts except such as they were principals or sureties for: and all persons were prohibited from depriving the burgesses of this privilege, under pain of forfeiting ten pounds.

### *Text of the Charter.*

Henricus dei grā Rex Angl Dux Hiñ Dux Normānu Aquitān  
& Comes Andeg Archiepis Epis Abbatib; Priorib; Comitib;  
Baronib; Justiciař Vicecomitib; Prepositis Ministris omnib; Balliis  
& fidelib; suis Satm Sciatis nos concilisse & hac carta nřa  
confirmasse Dicis Burgensib; nřis Norhamptoñ qđ Jpi & eor  
heredes Jm ppouñ p totam ſram & potestatem nrām habeant hanc  
libtatem videlicet qđ Jpi uel eoz bona quocumq; locoꝝ in potestate  
nrā inuenta non areſtent pro aliquo debito de quo fide iſſores aut  
principales debitores non extiterint niſi forte ipi debitores de eoꝝ  
ſint cōmuna & potestate habentes vnde de debitis suis in toto uel  
in parte ſatiſfac̄e poſſint & dēi Burgenses creditorib; Eoꝝdem  
debitoꝝ in iuſtia deſuerint & de hoc rōnabilit̄ constare poſſit  
Quare volumus & firmit̄ p̄cipim̄ pro nob & heredib; nřis qđ  
predēi Burgenses & eoꝝ heredes imppetuñ p totam ſram &  
potestatem nrām habeant libiatem predēam ſicut predēn̄ eſt Et  
prohibemus ſup foriſſeuram nrām decem libraꝝ ne quis eos con‐  
libatam predēam in aliquo iniuste vexet diſturbet uel inquietet  
Hiis Testib; Johes de Pleſſetis comite Warewik Raſto fil Nichi  
Arcaldo de ſeo Romano Drogone de Barreniū Witto de Grey  
Waukelino de Ardērii Witto Gernun Petro Everard & Aliis Data  
p manū nrām apud Windēs ſeptimo die April Anno regni nr̄i  
tricelimo nono.

*Translation.*

Henry by the grace of God King of England Lord of Ireland  
Duke of Normandy Aquitain and Earl of Anjou To the Archbishops  
Bishops Abbots Priors Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Reeves  
Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting Know ye  
that we have granted and by this our Charter confirmed to our  
beloved Burgesses of Northampton that they and their heirs for  
ever by all our land and power may have this liberty to wit—that  
they or their goods found in any places whatsoever in our power  
be not arrested for any debt of which they shall not be sureties  
or principal debtors unless it happens that the same debtors be  
of their community and power having whereof they may make  
satisfaction of their debts in the whole or in part and unless the  
said Burgesses fail in justice to the creditors of the same debts  
and this reasonably appears Wherefore we will and firmly command  
for us and our heirs that the aforesaid Burgesses and their heirs  
for ever by all our land and power have the liberty aforesaid as is  
aforesaid And we prohibit upon forfeiture to us of ten pounds that  
any one against the liberty aforesaid in any thing unjustly vex  
disturb or disquiet them These being witness John de Plessis  
Earl of Warwick<sup>91</sup> Ralph the son of Nicholas Arcald de Saint  
Roman Drogone de Barrentine William de Grey Wakeline de  
Arden William German Peter Everard and others Given by our  
hand at Windsor the seventh day of April in the thirty ninth  
year of our reign.

This charter, which is with the borough muniments, is written  
in Latin on plain parchment  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches wide and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep.  
The writing is upright, regular and unornamented. It has silk  
worked through the lower fold to carry the seal, which does not  
now exist.

It is indorsed :—

"7<sup>th</sup> Aprilis 39<sup>th</sup> Hen. 3<sup>rd</sup>

A Grant of Hen: 3<sup>d</sup> to the Burgesses of Northampton"

"4"

<sup>91</sup> John de Plessis or Plessis was the son of Hugh de Plessis, Earl of Warwick,  
and was born before 1214. He was admitted as Earl of Warwick in 1245 in  
right of his wife, Margaret de Neubourg, Countess of Warwick. He died in 1236.

## Charter of 41st Henry III.

18TH JANUARY, 1257.

THIS charter contains new and additional privileges. That the burgesses were to have returns of writs of all things affecting the borough, that the sheriff should not take distress in the borough, that the burgesses should have the right to judge thieves taken in the borough, that strangers should not be joined with burgesses in actions, that strange merchants should not dwell in the town in fair time without the leave of the burgesses, and that burgesses dying in any part of the kingdom their heirs should have their goods. And the previous grants were all confirmed by the King.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied the whole of the charter in Latin into that book, commencing at folio 106a. hereinafter printed. There is also an early translation of the document in English, written in the same book, commencing on folio 135a.

### *Translation of the Charter.*

Henry by the grace of God King of England Lord of Ireland  
Duke of Normandy Aquitain and Earl of Anjou To the Archbishops Bishops Abbotts Priors Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs  
Reeves Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting  
Know ye that we have granted and by this our Charter confirmed  
to our Burgesses of Northampton that they and their heirs for  
ever may have return of all our writs as well of Summons of  
our Exchequer as of other things touching the Borough aforesaid  
and the liberty of the same Borough And that they may  
answer by their hands at our Exchequer of all debts summonses  
and demands touching the same so that no Sheriff or other our  
Bailiff or Minister hereafter enter the aforesaid Borough to make  
any distresses summonses or other things which to their office

pertain unless by default of the same Burgesses or their heirs And that they may have infangthef<sup>12</sup> and that none of them be impleaded without the walls of the Borough of Northampton unless of pleas of outholdings or for any trespass committed in the same Borough unless upon any matter touching our right or our person And that the said Burgesses shall not be joined by any foreigners upon any appeals rights injuries trespasses crimes challenges or demands charged or to be charged to them but only by their co-burgesses unless for any thing touching the community of the aforesaid Borough And then in that case they shall be tried according to their liberties approved and hitherto used And that no merchant at the time of the fairs of the same Borough dwell in the same Borough with his merchandize unless with the license and will of the Bailiffs of the same Borough as it ought and hath been accustomed to be done in the times of our predecessors Kings of England and of our own and that they may make distress within the Borough aforesaid for their debts as hitherto it ought and hath been accustomed to be done Also we have granted to them that if any of them wheresoever in our Kingdom shall die testate or intestate their heirs shall fully have the goods of the same deceased so far as the said heirs can reasonably shew the same goods to have belonged to the said deceased And that they or their goods shall not be arrested anywhere in our Kingdom nor shall they lose their goods for any trespass of their servants and that they may use the liberties aforesaid contained within our Charter whensover they will although at any time they have not used the same Also we grant to them that they and their heirs may have all the liberties before granted to them by our Charter and by the Charters of our predecessors Kings of England as reasonably hitherto they have used the same Wherfore we will and firmly command for us and our heirs that the aforesaid Burgesses and their heirs for ever have the liberties aforesaid and we prohibit upon forfeiture to us that any one against this our Grant in any thing disturb or molest them These being Witnesses Geoffrey de Lezan<sup>13</sup> and William de

<sup>12</sup> Infangthef was the liberty granted to the lord of a manor to judge thieves taken within his manor.

<sup>13</sup> Geoffrey Fitz-Roy, a natural son of King John and half brother of King Henry III.

Valence<sup>24</sup> our brothers Henry de Bath Philip Lovell Master John Mansell William de Grey Walter de Merton Nicholas de Saint Maur Walkeline de Ardern Peter Everard and others Given by our hand at Westminster the eighteenth day of January in the forty first year of our reign.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches deep. The writing is slightly ornamented, the initial letters are plain, the initial letter H only being slightly ornamented with foliated work. A small portion of the great seal of England remains attached to the silk cord.

On the back is written:—

" 18° Januarij 111° Hen: 3<sup>rd</sup>.

" Grant of Hen: 3<sup>rd</sup> wher by amongst other priviledges is granted to the Burghesses of Northampton the Return of all writs within the Libertys of the Town the Sheriff of the County & his officers being prohibited from doing any Act appertaining to their office within the Libertys"

"5"

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<sup>24</sup> William de Valence, half brother of King Henry III., was created Earl of Pembroke before Sept., 1251. He was a crusader and Guardian and Lieutenant of England in 1285. He died 13th June, 1296.

## Letters Patent of 52<sup>nd</sup> Henry III.

6TH MAY, 1268.

IMMEDIATELY after the last charter was granted to the town in 1257, the Barons' war commenced. This civil war was terminated by the decisive battle of Evesham in 1265, at which Simon de Montfort and the barons were defeated. After the country became settled the King, according to his wont, granted new charters; and probably by this means obtained a little money for his last crusade in 1270. This grant simply confirmed all the charters previously given to the burgesses by the Kings of England.

### *Text of these Letters Patent.*

Henricus dei grā Rex Angl dom Hibn & Dux Aguñ omibz  
Balliis & fidelibz eius ad quos presentes littere puenerū salt.  
Cum dīcī nobis maior & burgenſes ſri Norhaſpt habeant quasdam  
libertatis p cartas predeceſſoz nroꝝ regum Angl & nras ac ipi pp̄  
impedimentū guerre nup in regno nō habite eisdem libertatibz usi  
ſint minus plene nos eisdem qrām facere volentes spālem concedimus  
eis qđ licet pp̄ impedimentum guerre predēc aliquibz articliſ in dcīs  
cartis contentis hucusqz viſi non fuerint ad plenū eisdem nichominuꝝ  
deceſſo vtant. sedm qđ in predtis cartis plenius continent.  
Concessimus eciam eisdem qđ firmam suam eiusdem ville soluere  
posint ad sccim nrm eodem modo & ad eōſde tminos ad quos  
firmam illam reddere conuerernt juxa tenorem cartaꝝ nrāꝝ quas inde  
habent et villam sua quam dudum capi fecimus in manū nrām  
reddidim eisdem. Conceilim' insup eiſd maiori & burgenſibz qđ ipi  
non diſtringant' pro aliquo debito de quo ſideiuſſores aut pncipales  
debitores non extitint. Et id vob mandamus qđ predc̄s maiorem  
& burgenſes contra conceſſiones nrās predc̄as non vexetis in aliquo  
neu greuetis. In cuius rei teſtimō has littas nrās fieri fecimus

pacentes. Teste me ipō apud Windesoz. sexto die maij Anno regni nri gnḡ gesimo scdō.

*Indorsed.*

Ista carta lecta s̄int eid  
Eccm̄ anno VV & ibid  
vrē de mannend carta  
posuca s̄int in liacia  
Marescalcia miid anni

*Translation.*

Henry by the grace of God King of England Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitain to all his Bailiffs and faithful men to whom the present letters shall come Greeting Whereas our beloved our Mayor and Burgesses of Northampton have certain liberties by the charters of our predecessors Kings of England and our own And they by reason of the impediment of the war lately had in our kingdom the same liberties have not fully used We willing to do to them special favour Grant to them that although on account of the impediment of the war aforesaid hitherto they have not fully used any Articles in the said Charters contained Nevertheless hereafter they may use the same according to that which in the aforesaid Charters is more fully contained Also we have granted to them that they may pay their farm of the same Town at our Exchequer in the same manner and at the same Terms at which they have been accustomed to render the same farm according to the tenor of our Charters which they have thereof and their Town which formerly we caused to be taken into our hands we have restored to them Moreover we have granted to the same Mayor and Burgesses that they shall not be distrained for any debt of which they are not Sureties nor principal Debtors And therefore we command you that the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses against our grants aforesaid you do not in any thing vex or aggrieve In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Windsor the sixth day of May in the fifty second year of our reign

*Indorsed.*

This Charter was read at the Exchequer in the fifty fifth year and there a writ for maintaining the Charter was placed upon the file of the Marshalsea of the same year

This document, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep; the writing is small and regular, but without any attempt at ornamentation. A small portion of the great seal of England remains attached to the silk cord.

On the back is written:—

"6<sup>o</sup> Maij 52<sup>o</sup> Hen: 3<sup>o</sup>  
A grant of Hen: 3<sup>o</sup> to the Mayor and Burgesses of Northamptō."

"Hen. 3."  
"6"

A copy also exists in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Rot: Pat: 52<sup>o</sup> Hen. III. m. 17.*

## Letters Patent of 52nd Henry III.

6TH MAY, 1268.

THIS grant, which bears the same date as the previous one, is a general pardon to the Mayor and men of Northampton for their share in the rebellion as before mentioned, on condition that they should behave themselves well in the future.

### *Text of these Letters Patent.*

Henricus dei grā Rex Angl̄ Hibn̄ & Dux Agun' omnibꝫ Balliuis & fidelibus suis ad quos p̄sentes littere puenerint salt. Volentes maiori & probis Hominibꝫ āris Norhampt̄ grām facere spātem remissimus & pdonam̄ eisdem & toti cōminati ville eiusdem omēni indignātoem & animi rancorem quos erga ipōs concepe ramus occasione decentonis ville firē Norhaþton cont nos & captonis eiusdem & etiam occasione transgressū huiusmodi qūcum in nobis est similiter perdonamus & ipōs ad grām & patem nrām admisimus nolentes qđ iþi p nos heredes nrōs Justiciarios balliuos seu alios ministros nrōs occasione predia deceſo grā uent in aliquo

seu molestent. Ita in qd stent recto in curia nra si gius de  
desigressionibz aliquibz nersus eos loqui voluerit & erga nos &  
heredes nrōs bene & fidelit se habeant in futurum. In cuius rei  
testim has litteras nrās fieri fecimus p atntes. Teste me ipso apud  
Windes sexto die Maij Anno regni nri ēgēmo secundo

*Translation.*

Henry by the grace of God King of England Duke of Ireland  
and Duke of Aquitain to all his Bailiffs and faithful men to whom  
these present letters shall come greeting We desire to make  
special remission and pardon to the Mayor and honest men of  
our Town of Northampton and to the whole of the commonalty of  
the same town of all indignation and rancor of mind which we had  
conceived against them on the occasion of the detention of our  
Town of Northampton against us and the taking of the same and  
also by occasion of trespasses and excesses if they shall have  
committed any at the time of the disturbances in our Kingdom  
and we likewise as much as is in us have pardoned them those  
trespasses and excesses and have admitted them to our grace and  
peace Not willing that they nor their heirs by us our Justiciaries  
Bailiffs and other Ministers of ours by occasion aforesaid shall be  
oppressed or molested So nevertheless that they shall stand  
to judgement in our Court if anyone shall wish to speak against  
them concerning the aforesaid transgressions and that they shall  
behave themselves well and faithfully to us in future In testimony  
whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent  
Witness myself at Windsor the 6th day of May in the fifty second  
year of our reign

This document, which is with the muniments of the borough, is  
written in Latin on plain parchment  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches wide and 5 inches  
deep. Attached to the silk cord is a portion of the great seal of  
England in green wax.

On the back is written:—

" Hen. 3.

" pardon "

" 7 "

## Letters Patent of 54<sup>th</sup> Henry III.

15TH MARCH, 1270.

BY virtue of this grant the burgesses were enabled to keep their dogs in the town and suburbs without expeditating or lawing <sup>as</sup> them: a privilege much appreciated.

In the *Liber Custumarum*, folio 31 b., a provision will be found for dogs to be kept in a leash whilst in the town unless they were quiet.

*Text of these Letters Patent.*

P. Burgensib; Norht.

R; omnib; &c. Salm. Cum Burgenses nr; Norhpt ab antiquo quiet<sup>2</sup> eis confuerint de expeditacōe Canū suoꝝ tam in Suburbio eiusdem qm̄ inf. eandem villam volentes eisdem Burgensib; qram facere specialem concessimus eis p nō & h̄es qd ipi Burgenses & eoꝝ homines impetuū sint quiti de expeditacōe canū suoꝝ tam in Suburbio predēe ville q̄ infra eandem villam Ed qd quieti sunt de fine et misericordia si que ad nos vel hēdes nr;os racōe huiusmodi expeditacōes possent ptin<sup>e</sup>. In cui<sup>o</sup> &c. T. R; apūd Westmōn xv die Marc.

*Translation.*

For the Burgesses of Northampton.

The King to all &c Greeting Since the burgesses of our town of Northampton have been used of old to walk freely with their dogs as well in the suburbs as within the town itself We willingly grant special permission to the said burgesses both for

\* Under the Forest laws dogs were required to be expeditated or lawed by having the balls of their feet cut out, or in the case of a mastiff, the removal of the three claws of the forefoot on the right side, in order that it might be impossible for them to run game.

ourselves and heirs that the burgesses themselves and their men may for ever freely walk with their dogs both in the suburbs of the said town and within the town itself and that they may be held free from any fine or punishment that might pertain to us or our heirs by any such action In testimony &c Witness the King at Westminster the 15th day of March

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Rot: Pat: 54<sup>th</sup> Hen. III., m. 19.*

## Letters Patent of 13<sup>th</sup> Edward I.

8TH MAY, 1284.

THIS grant is very much on the same lines as the previous grants of the 9th and 36th Henry III., hereinbefore printed. The King giving the burgesses leave to levy tolls on goods sold there for the term of two years, and to apply the proceeds towards paving the town.

*Text of these Letters Patent.*

D pauimento Northt.

W. majori & battis suis Norht salut. Sciatis qd concessim⁹ vob⁹ in auxiliū ville urē paviendo qd a festo Sci Johis Bapi anno regni nři Ćciodecimo usq; ad finem duoz annoz pxio sequenciu completoz capiatis in eadem villa consuetudiēs subscriptas videt de qualibet carectata bladi venāl unū denā D qualibet carecta ferente piscom venalem unū denā De qualibet trussello pannoz venaliū ducto p carectam unū denā De qual; carecta ferente coria equoz & equaz boū & vaccaz p ebdomodū unū denā D qualibet dolio vini venāl unū denā D quob; sacco lane venāt unū denā D quob; sūmaḡ panni seu aliarz m̄candisaꝝ unū obolū De viginti ovib; ut porcis vend⁹ unū denā De viginti vellerib; vend⁹ unū obolū

D quob; corio equi vt eque bovis vt vacce frisco salito aut tannato  
ven unū quadrantem D centena pelliū oviū lanataz unū obolū.  
Et is vob mandam<sup>d</sup> qd sciam consuetudiēm usq; ad finē tmini p̄ci  
capiatis sicut p̄dem est Completo autem tmino tcoz duoz annoz  
tca cons penit<sup>d</sup> ccesset & deleaf<sup>d</sup>. In euj<sup>d</sup> &c. T. R. Apud. Westm  
vijj. die Maij.

*Translation.*

Concerning Paving for Northampton.

The King to his Mayor and Bailiffs of Northampton Greeting  
Know ye that we have granted to you in aid of paving your Town  
that ye may from the Feast of St. John the Baptist in the 13th  
year of our reign [29th August 1285] unto the end of two years  
next following to be completed take in the same town the customs  
underwritten namely of every cart load of corn for sale one penny  
of every cart conveying fish for sale one penny of every truss of  
cloth carried for sale by cart one penny of every cart carrying  
hides of horses and mares oxen and cows for sale by the week  
one penny of every cask of wine for sale one penny of every  
sack of wool for sale one penny of every load of cloth or other  
merchandizes one halfpenny of twenty sheep or pigs for sale one  
penny of twenty fleeces for sale one halfpenny of every hide of  
horse or mare ox or cow fresh salted or tanned for sale one  
farthing of a hundred of tanned sheep skins one halfpenny And  
therefore we do command you that ye do take the said customs  
unto the end of the aforesaid term as is aforesaid and that the  
term of the said two years being ended the said customs do  
wholly cease and be abolished In testimony whereof &c Witness  
the King at Westminster the 8th day of May

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough.  
The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in  
the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Rot: Pat: 13<sup>th</sup> Ed. I. m. 21.*

## Charter of 27th Edward I.

27TH MAY, 1299.

THIS inspecimus charter, which incorporates and confirms the charters of the 11th and 41st Henry III., gave the burgesses power to choose a mayor and two bailiffs every year.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied the whole of this charter in Latin into that book, commencing at folio 105a, hereinafter printed. There is also an early translation of the document in English written in the same book, commencing on folio 135a.

### *Translation of the Charter.*

[E]dward by the grace of God King of England and France Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitain to the Archbishops Bishops Abbotts Priors Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Reeves Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting We have inspected the charter which the Lord Henry of famous memory formerly King of England our father made to the Burgesses of Northampton in these words Henry by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 11th Henry III., 16th March, 1227, printed before at page 38.] Also we have inspected a certain other charter which our aforesaid Father likewise made to the Burgesses aforesaid in these words Henry by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 41st Henry III., 18th January, 1257, printed before at page 46.] And we the grants aforesaid holding firm and valid the same for us and our heirs as much as in us lies do grant and confirm to the aforesaid burgesses their heirs and other their successors burgesses of the same town for ever as the charters aforesaid reasonably testify Also we have granted for us and our heirs to the

burgesses aforesaid that they their heirs and successors aforesaid every year for ever at the Feast of Saint Michael may choose one Mayor and two Bailiffs of themselves and him whom they shall so choose as Mayor they shall present at our Exchequer within eight days of the same feast who then there shall take an oath of those things which pertain to the office of Mayoralty of the town aforesaid faithfully to be executed And which Mayor and Bailiffs shall hold and execute all pleas touching the liberty of the town aforesaid as by the Bailiffs of the same town in times past it hath been accustomed to be done These being witnesses The Venerable Fathers A Bishop of Durham <sup>xx</sup> J Bishop of Winchester <sup>xvii</sup> S Bishop of Salisbury <sup>xx</sup> Henry de Lacy Earl of Lincoln <sup>xx</sup> Guy Earl of Warwick <sup>100</sup> Otto de Grandison Walter de Beauchamp Steward of our Household William le Brown Peter de Tatynton and others Given by our hand at Canterbury the 27th day of May in the twenty-seventh year of our reign.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment, 19 inches wide, and 17½ inches deep, the writing is unornamented, and though a space has been left for the first letter of Edwardus it has never been filled in. Almost the whole of the great seal of England remains attached to the silk cords.

<sup>xx</sup> Anthony Bek, Patriarch of Jerusalem, was Bishop of Durham in 1284. He greatly enlarged Auckland Castle, Bernward Castle, and other places. He died in 1311.

<sup>xvii</sup> John de Pontissard became Bishop of Winchester in 1280. He founded the college of St. Mary of Hungary, in Winchester. He died in 1305, and was buried at Winchester.

<sup>xx</sup> Simon of Ghent became Bishop of Salisbury in 1297, and gave citizens licence to fortify that city with wall and ditch. According to Leland he was a prelate of considerable learning. He died in 1315.

<sup>xx</sup> Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln and Salisbury, was born about 1250. He occupied many important posts in England, being in 1310 Guardian and Lieutenant of England. He was twice married, and died in 1311. The earl was "Strenuus in militia, maturus in consiliis."

<sup>100</sup> Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and a Lord Marcher of Wales, was born in 1270. He was knighted by the King on the 25th March, 1296, and succeeded as second Earl of Warwick in 1298. He died in 1315. He was said to have been "miles severissimus."

On the back is written:—

" 27<sup>o</sup> Maij 27<sup>o</sup> Edri j<sup>m</sup>

" This Charter of Edw<sup>o</sup> the first whereby two Charters of Henry  
" 3<sup>o</sup> are confirmed & fresh priviledges granted (viz) That the  
" Burgesses of Northampton for the future shall elect a Mayor &  
" 2 Bailiffs annually at the feast of St. Michael."

" 8 "

## Letters Patent of 29<sup>th</sup> Edward I.

4TH OCTOBER, 1301.

THIS grant is similar to, but more extensive than, the previous  
grant of 9<sup>th</sup> Henry III., and also for a longer term.

*Text of these Letters Patent.*

Muragium Norhampton.

By majori battis & pbis hōib; ville sue Norhampton saltm  
Sciatis qd concessim⁹ vob in auxiliū ville pdēe claudende ad securitatem & tuicoēm ejusdē ville & pcoī adjacenciū qd a die consecēois  
p̄senciū usq; ad finem quinq; annos pxio sequenciu completoz  
capiatis in eadem villa consuetudines subsēptas videt de quolibet  
sumagio bladi veñ cuj⁹cumq; gen⁹is sit aut brasei unū quadr' De  
quolibet equo & equa bovis & vacce frisco salito aut tannato veñ unū  
quadr' De quinq baconib; veñ unū obolū De decem pvis veñ unū  
obolū De decem ovib; cap's & porcis veñ unū deñ De decem  
vellerib; veñ unū obolū De qualibet centena pelliū oviū lanutaz  
& cap⁹ veñ unū deñ De qualibet centena pelliū agnoz cap'oloz  
lepoz cuniculoz vulpiū catoz & squirrelloz veñ unū obolū De  
qualibet centena grisei opis veñ sex deñ De quolibet qrtio salis  
veñ unū quadr'. De quolibet sumagio panni veñ unū obolū De  
quolibet panno integro vend valoris quadraginta solid⁹ unū obolū  
De quolibet trussello pannoz veñ ducto p carectam tres deñ De

qualibet centena pannoꝝ de Wurthstede veñ duos deñ De quolibet panno de wurthstede qui vocalꝝ coverlit valoris quadraginta solidꝝ veñ unū deñ De qualibet centena linee tele vend̄ unū obolū De qualibet centena linee tele de Aylesham veñ unū deñ De quolibet chef de cendallo afforciato veñ unū deñ & de alio cendallo unū obolū De q̄libet centena milvelli saliti aut duri piscis veñ duos deñ De q̄libet carectata piscis marini vend̄ quatuor deñ De quolibet sūmagio piscis marini vend̄ unū obolū De quolibet salmonē veñ unū quadr' De q̄libet duodena lampredaꝝ veñ unū deñ De quolibet dolio de sturjoun veñ unū obolū De quolibet miliari allecis veñ unū quadr' De quolibet sūmagio cinꝫum veñ unū obolū De q̄libet sūmagio mell veñ unū denar' de quolibet sacco lane veñ duos deñ De quilibet carectata tanni veñ p ebdomodam unū deñ De avꝫio ponderis scilt de centena unū deñ De quilibet pisa cepi & uneti veñ unū den De quilibet q̄tr' waide veñ duoꝝ deñ De duobꝝ miliaribꝝ allei aut cepax veñ unū obolū de quilibet bala cordewanni veñ tres deñ De quilibet centena bordi veñ unū obolū De quilibet mola veñ unū obolū De quilibet centena fagotoꝝ veñ unū quadr' De quilibet carectata busce aut maeremij veñ p ebdomodam unū obolū De quilibet centena stagni eris & cupri veñ duos deñ De quilibet trusſello cujuscumq; m̄cimonij veñ excedentis valorem decem solidox unū obolū De quilibet dolio vini veñ tres obolos De quilibet m̄candisa veñ hic nō nōiata valoris q̄nq; solidox & ult̄ unū quadr' Et ideo vob̄ mandam⁹ qđ pdcāconsuetudines usq; ad finem pdcōꝝ qruq; annoꝝ capiatis sicut pdc̄m est completo aute lmino illo dēe consuetudines penit⁹ cessent & deleant' In cui⁹ &c p pdcōꝝ quinq; annos duratur T R apud Donepas iiii Octobr p billam de seccis

*Translation.*

Concerning Murage for the town of Northampton.

The King to the Mayor Bailiffs and good men of his town of Northampton Greeting Know ye that we have granted to you in aid of inclosing the aforesaid town for the security and defence of the same town and of the parts adjacent that ye may from the day of the making of these presents to the end of five years next following to be completed take in the same town the customs underwritten namely for every horse load of corn for sale of whatsoever kind it be or of barley one farthing for every horse and

mare ox and cow for sale one halfpenny for every hide of horse  
and mare ox and cow fresh salted or tanned for sale one farthing  
for five hogs for sale one halfpenny for ten little hogs for sale one  
halfpenny for ten sheep goats and pigs for sale one penny for ten  
fleeces for sale one halfpenny for ever hundred of tanned skins of  
sheep and goats for sale one penny for every hundred of skins of  
lambs kids hares rabbits foxes cats and squirrels for sale one  
halfpenny for every hundred of greywerk for sale sixpence for  
every quarter of salt for sale one farthing for every horse load of  
cloth for sale one halfpenny for every entire cloth for sale of the  
value of forty shillings one halfpenny for every truss of cloth for  
sale conveyed by a cart three pence for every hundred of cloths of  
worsted for sale two pence for every cloth of worsted called  
coverlet of the value of forty shillings for sale one penny for every  
hundred of linen for sale one halfpenny for every hundred of linen  
of Aylesham for sale one penny for every piece of thin silk worked  
for sale one penny and for other thin silk one halfpenny for every  
hundred of salt mullet or hard fish for sale two pence for every  
cart load of sea fish for sale one halfpenny for every salmon for  
sale one farthing for every dozen of lampreys for sale one penny for  
every cask of sturgeon for sale one halfpenny for every thousand  
of herrings for sale one farthing for every horse load of ashes for  
sale one halfpenny for every horse load of honey for sale one  
farthing for every sack of wool for sale two pence for every cart  
load of tan by the week one penny for ox cart load or hundred  
weight one penny for every stone of fat and tallow for sale one  
penny for every quarter of wood for sale two pence for two thousand  
of garlick or onions for sale one halfpenny for every bale of prepared  
leather for sale three pence for every hundred of boards for sale  
one halfpenny for every millstone for sale one halfpenny for every  
hundred of faggots for sale one farthing for every cart load of brush-  
wood or timber for sale by the week one halfpenny for every  
hundred-weight of tin brass and copper for sale twopence for every  
truss of whatsoever merchandize for sale exceeding the value of  
ten shillings one halfpenny of every cask of wine for sale three  
half-pence for every merchandize for sale not here mentioned of the  
value of five shillings and upwards one farthing And therefore we  
do command you that ye do take the aforesaid customs unto the  
end of the aforesaid five years as is aforesaid and that the said  
term being ended the said customs do utterly cease and be abolished

In testimony whereof &c. to continue for the aforesaid five years  
Witness the King at Donypas the 4th day of October

By Bill of the Exchequer

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the Borough.  
The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in  
the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as :—

*Rot: Pat: 29<sup>th</sup> Ed. I. m. 6.*

## Pleas of the Crown.

3RD EDWARD III.

1330.

THIS presentment against the bailiffs of Northampton for taking  
unlawful tolls is here printed, because it contains the names of  
many of the inhabitants of the town; and also because it shows how  
causes were tried by the King's justiciaries, and how the sheriff  
was made responsible for the appearance of the defendants.

### *Translation.*

Pleas of the Crown holden at Northampton before Geoffry le Scrop Lambert de Packingham John de Cambridge Thomas de Luthe and Thomas de Radcliffe the Justices itinerant of our Lord the King there on the Monday next after the Feast of All Saints in the 3rd year of the reign of King Edward the Third after the Conquest. [Monday 5th Nov 1330]

The Jury present that John Hocécote Henry de Helidon<sup>101</sup>  
Adam de Cotesbroke<sup>102</sup> Henry Roger and Pentecost le Deystere

<sup>101</sup> Henry de Helidon, Helliden, or Helyden, was one of the members for Northampton, at the parliaments held at York in 6th Edward III., and again at York the next year.

<sup>102</sup> Adam de Cotesbroke was one of the members for the town at the parliaments held at Westminster in 6th Edward II., at New Sarum in 2nd Edward III., at Westminster again in 6th Edward III.

the Bailiffs of the Town of Northampton take by extortion from all persons coming to the Town of Northampton to sell straw trusses of straw to cover the Kingsbroth against Fair times as well within fair times as without And that the said John Henry Adam Henry and Pentecost take unjust Tolls at all times of the year from all persons buying or selling cattle whereas nothing used to be taken out of fair time and then from dealers only and not from those who bought cattle for stock And they took from Thomas de Skalford who sold one ox a penny likewise from the purchaser thereof they took toll to the great oppression of the people

Therefore let the Sheriff be commanded that he do cause them to come &c Afterwards came the aforesaid John de Hochecote and Adam de Cotesbroke and could not deny the aforesaid trespasses presented against them and made fine with the Lord the King for all trespasses against them presented each of them at half a mark &c as appeareth amongst the presentments of the township of Northampton &c Afterwards came the aforesaid Henry Henry and Pentecost and made fine for all trespasses &c as appeareth amongst the presentments of Northampton.

This record is not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as :—

*Pleas of the Crown in the County of Northampton a<sup>o</sup>. 3 . Ed . III .*

#### *Translation.*

Pleas of the Crown holden at Northampton before Geoffry le Scrop Lambert de Packingham John de Cambridge Thomas de Luthe and Thomas de Radcliffe the Justices itinerant of our Lord the King there on the Monday next after the Feast of All Saints in the 3rd year of the reign of King Edward the Third after the Conquest Concerning new Customs &c The Jury present that Henry Roger and other Bailiffs of the Town of Northampton have newly levied a certain new custom in the Town of Slipton <sup>103</sup> which is fifteen miles distant from the aforesaid Town of Northampton namely of taking from every cart laden with wool wax and other merchandizes or goods whatsoever there passing one penny and from every horse load one

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<sup>103</sup> Slipton, a small Northamptonshire village, situate three miles from Thrapston, and six miles from Kettering,

farthing to great oppression of the people &c they know not by what warrant &c Afterwards came the aforesaid Bailiffs and many others of the Commonalty of the aforesaid Town and they say that the custom whereof mention is made in the presentment is a toll pertaining to the Farm of the King's Town of Northampton and that the Lord the King Henry great grandfather of the Lord the now King during the time whilst the Town of Northampton was in his hands was seised of such like toll to be there taken and likewise the said Bailiffs from the time when they took the aforesaid Town at farm And they say that they receive the aforesaid Tolls at Slipton which pertain to the aforesaid Farm from carts and laden horses which ought to pass with their merchandizes through the Town of Northampton for which they ought to take Toll in the Town of Northampton and not otherwise and they pray that these things may be enquired of by the County And one William de Tichmerch saith for the King's people that the aforesaid Bailiffs receive there by their servants thereunto deputed the aforesaid new custom from all carts and laden horses as well of the neighbours there passing towards Leicester or Rothwell or elsewhere to the north parts and likewise of those passing there towards the south with their corn and other things whatsoever as of those passing there with merchandizes And this he offers to prove &c Therefore let a Jury thereupon come And the Jury say upon their oath that the aforesaid Henry Roger and other the Bailiffs of the Town of Northampton have during their times by their servants taken the aforesaid customs from the carts and laden horses as well of the neighbours as of strangers there passing with their goods and merchandizes at the will of the said servants Therefore the said Henry is in mercy And it is commanded to the said Bailiffs that they do in no wise take the aforesaid customs from the neighbours or others there passing but only from those who avoid the aforesaid Town of Northampton to evade the custom or toll of right due by reason of the liberty of the aforesaid Town on peril that shall ensue thereon.

This record is not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where is referred to as:—

*Pleas of the Crown in the County of Northampton a<sup>e</sup> 3 Ed. III.*

## Letters Patent of 3rd Edward III.

8TH DECEMBER, 1330.

THIS document contains the first appointment of a custos of the town of Northampton.

### *Translation.*

Grant concerning the custody of the Town of Northampton.

The King to his beloved and trusty Robert de Ardern<sup>104</sup> Greeting We fully confiding in your fidelity and industry have committed to you the custody of our Town of Northampton and of the Liberty thereof which by the consideration of our Court before our Justices Itinerant in our County of Northampton hath been taken into our hands to hold so long as it shall please us So that ye do depute under you Bailiffs and other ministers for the custody aforesaid who shall answer as they ought as well to us for the profits thence arising as to Isabel Queen of England our most dear mother for the Farm of the same town which she hath received by our appointment And therefore we command you that ye be intendant to execute the premises in form aforesaid and we do command the good men and commonalty of the aforesaid town that they be to you attendant and respondent concerning the premises In testimony &c Witness the King at Kenilworth the 8th day of December By the King himself

For Robert de Ardern

The King to his beloved the good men and all the commonalty of the town of Northampton Whereas we having full trust in the fidelity and industry of our beloved and trusty Robert de Ardern have granted to him the custody of our aforesaid town and of the liberty thereof which by the consideration of our Court before our

<sup>104</sup> This was probably the Robert de Ardern who was sheriff of the county in 1329-30, and lord of the manor of Radston, Northamptonshire, in 1329.

Justices itinerant in the County of Northampton hath been taken into our hand to hold so long as it shall please us So that he do depute under him bailiffs and other ministers for the custody aforesaid who shall answer as they ought as well to us for the profits thence accruing as to Queen Isabel our most dear mother for the Farm of our same town which she hath received by our appointment We do command you that ye be to the said Robert obedient and respondent Witness as above

By the King himself

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Originalia of 3rd Edward III. in the Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer's Office.*

## Letters Patent of 9th Edward III.

20TH APRIL, 1335.

THIS document contains the first allusion that we have noticed to the south bridge at Northampton, an important structure, without the walls of the town, on the London road.

*Translation.*

Pontage for the men of the town of Northampton.

The good men of the town of Northampton have for the reparation and amendment of the bridge which leads over river Nen without the south gate of the same town which is in a great measure dilapidated and gone to decay a like subsidy on articles coming to Northampton for sale to be taken for three years by the hands of William de Lodelowe<sup>105</sup> Walter de Burgh<sup>106</sup>

<sup>105</sup> William de Lodelowe was one of the representatives of the town of Northampton at the parliament held at Westminster in 11th Ed. III. He was also master of the hospital of Saint Leonard in 1346.

<sup>106</sup> A Walter de Burgh was one of the representatives of the town of Northampton at ten parliaments, between the years 1308 and 1358, probably father and son.

and William de Burgh<sup>107</sup> of Northampton and of every of them &c. excepting the clause "by view and testimony &c." Witness the King at Clipston in Sherwood the 20th day of April

By writ of the privy seal.

This grant immediately follows one of the 12th April to the good men of Nottingham enabling them to levy toll on animals and all manner of specified articles sold in the town of Nottingham and apply the proceeds for the reparation of the bridge of Hethbeck over river Trent under the view and testimony of three burgesses therein named.

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Rot. Pat. 9<sup>th</sup>. Ed. III., p. 1. m. 24.*

## Charter of 11<sup>th</sup> Edward III.

18TH MARCH, 1337.

THIS grant of a fair was a most important concession to the corporation of Northampton, giving them the right to hold a fair, and to take tolls on all articles sold during the space of four weeks.

### *Translation.*

For the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton to have liberty to hold a Fair.

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<sup>107</sup> William de Burgh was also one of the representatives of the town of Northampton at four parliaments between the years 1315 and 1339.

The King to his Archbishops &c Greeting. Know ye that we of our especial grace have granted and by this our Charter have confirmed to our beloved the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of our town of Northampton that they their heirs and successors may every year for ever have at the said town of Northampton one Fair to last for one month namely on the Monday next after the Octaves of the Holy Trinity [the second Monday after Trinity Sunday] and for twenty seven days next ensuing unless the said Fair be to the injury of the neighbouring Fairs. So nevertheless that the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses or their heirs or successors take no other toll in the said Fair than hath before our present grant been accustomed to be received in the same town. Wherefore we will and do firmly command for us and our heirs that the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their heirs and successors for ever may have the said Fair at the town aforesaid with all liberties and free customs to such like Fair pertaining unless the same Fair be to the injury of the neighbouring Fairs. So that the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses or their heirs or successors take no other toll in the said market than hath been heretofore accustomed to be taken in the same town as is aforesaid. These being witnesses the venerable fathers John Archbishop of Canterbury<sup>108</sup> Primate of all England our Chancellor Henry Bishop of Lincoln<sup>109</sup> our Treasurer Richard Bishop of Durham<sup>110</sup> Thomas Earl of Norfolk<sup>111</sup> and Marshal of England John de Warenne Earl of Surrey<sup>112</sup> Thomas de Beau-

<sup>108</sup> John Stratford was intruded Bishop of Winchester by the Pope in 1323, was translated to Canterbury in 1333, and was the founder of the College at Stratford-on-Avon. He died at Mayfield, in 1348, and was buried by St. Dunstan's Altar, in Canterbury Cathedral.

<sup>109</sup> Henry Burghersh was Treasurer and Chancellor of England, and became Bishop of Lincoln in 1320. He died at Ghent in 1342 and was buried at the east end of Lincoln Cathedral.

<sup>110</sup> Richard Bury, Dean of Wells, became Bishop of Durham in 1333, and founded a library at Oxford. He died in 1343 at Auckland, and was buried at Durham.

<sup>111</sup> Thomas "of Brotherton," the second son of King Edward I., was born 1st June, 1300. He was created Earl of Norfolk in 1312, and Marshal of England in 1316. He "fu hom de moult sauvage & diverse maniere"; and he died August, 1338.

<sup>112</sup> John de Warenne was born in 1286, and succeeded as fourth Earl of Surrey and Warenne in 1305. He died in June, 1347.

champ Earl of Warwick<sup>113</sup> Thomas Wake of Lydel<sup>114</sup> John Darcy  
the Nephew Steward of our household and others Given by our  
hand at Westminster the 18th day of March

By the King himself

This charter is not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Rot: Cart 1<sup>mo</sup> Ed. III. no. 67.*

## Charter of 8th Richard II.

14TH JUNE, 1385.

This inspeximus charter incorporated and confirmed the previous charters of the 11th and 41st Henry III., and 27th Edward I., and granted that the mayor and bailiffs of Northampton should have the right to try all causes and pleas within the town and suburbs; to keep the assize of bread, wine, and beer, and weights and measures; and to take cognizance of forestallers and regraters.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied the whole of this charter in Latin into that book, commencing at folio 105a, hereinafter printed.

### *Translation.*

Richard by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland To the Archbishops Bishops Abbotts Priors Dukes Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Reeves Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting We have inspected a cer-

<sup>113</sup> Thomas de Beauchamp, the son of Guy, Earl of Warwick, was born in 1313, and succeeded as the third Earl of Warwick in 1315, on the death of his father. He was a man "belliger animosus," and was Chief Justice of "Oyer and Terminer" in the royal forests of Rockingham, Salcey, and Whittlebury, in 1341, and in 1344 he was Marshal of England. He died 13th November, 1369.

<sup>114</sup> Thomas Wake was the son of John Wake, who was summoned to Parliament in 1295 as Baron Wake, of Lydel. Thomas married Blanche, the daughter of Henry Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster. He died in 1349, without leaving issue.

tain charter of the Lord Edward of famous memory formerly King of England son of King Henry our progenitor made to our Burgesses of Northampton in these words Edward by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 27th Edward I., 27th May, 1299, printed before at page 56] And we the grants aforesaid holding firm and valid the same for us and our heirs as much as in us lies to the aforesaid Burgesses and their heirs and other their successors Burgesses of the same town grant and confirm for ever as the charters aforesaid reasonably testify Moreover being willing to show more abundant favour to the same Burgesses in this behalf we have granted to them and by this our charter confirmed that although they or their ancestors either or any of the liberties or acquittances in the said charters contained by any cause arising hitherto have not fully used Nevertheless the same Burgesses their heirs and successors Burgesses of the same town the liberties and acquittances aforesaid and every of them may hereafter fully enjoy and use without the impediment of us or our heirs Justices Escheators Sheriffs or other our Bailiffs or Ministers whomsoever And moreover in relief of the town aforesaid willing to regard the same Burgesses and their heirs and successors aforesaid with more ample favours and liberties we have granted to them and by this our charter confirmed for us and our heirs that they may have cognizance of all pleas as well of assizes whatsoever as of other pleas whatsoever within the town aforesaid and the suburbs of the same arising to be holden before the Mayor and Bailiffs of the said town for the time being in the Guildhall of the town aforesaid for ever And that the Mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being may have for ever in the town aforesaid and the suburbs of the same the keeping of the assize of bread wine and beer and the correction and punishment of the same together with fines amerciaments and other profits thereof arising to be converted to the use of the commonalty of the town and suburbs aforesaid And also the keeping of the assize and assay and the survey of the measures and weights in the town and suburbs aforesaid as well in the presence as in the absence of us and our heirs so that the Mayor of the said town for the time being shall survey the said measures and weights and those which he shall find false he shall cause to be burnt and destroyed and other lawful and just measures

and weights to be appointed and sealed And also the trespassers whom he shall find in this behalf he shall duly punish and chaste as well in the absence as in the presence of us and our heirs as often as it shall be necessary and shall seem to him reasonable to be done And that the Mayor there for the time being for ever may have power as well in such presence as absence to enquire and take cognizance of forestallers<sup>115</sup> and regraters<sup>116</sup> of flesh and fish putrid desceased and otherwise unwholesome in the town and suburbs aforesaid and thereupon to make due punishment And likewise to dispose of the government correction and punishment of the premises together with the fines forfeitures amerciament and other profits thereof issuing to the use of the commonalty of the town and suburbs aforesaid So that the clerk of the market or other minister of us or our heirs of the premises or any of them or of any things belonging or appertaining to the office of clerk of the market in no wise intromit in the town or suburbs aforesaid These being witnesses The Venerable Father W Archbishop of Canterbury<sup>117</sup> Primate of all England R Bishop of London<sup>118</sup> W Bishop of Winchester<sup>119</sup> Thomas Bishop of Exeter<sup>120</sup> John King of Castille and Leon<sup>121</sup>

<sup>115</sup> A forestaller was one who bought corn, cattle, or other merchandise, as it came to a fair or market with the intent to sell the same again at a higher price.

<sup>116</sup> A regrater was one who bought by wholesale, in order to sell again by retail.

<sup>117</sup> William Courtenay, the eldest son of Hugh Courtenay, second Earl of Devon, became Bishop of Hereford in 1369, he was translated to London in 1375, and became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1382. He died at Maidstone in 1396, and was buried in that churchyard. In Canterbury Cathedral there is a monument to this prelate.

<sup>118</sup> Robert de Braybrook was a Canon of Lichfield, and became Bishop of London in 1381. He died in 1404, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral.

<sup>119</sup> William of Wykeham was the King's chaplain, and renowned in history. In 1356 he was clerk of the King's works at Hendle and Yethampstead, in 1359 surveyor of works at Windsor; he built the royal castle at Queenborough, founded Winchester School, and New College, Oxford, restored St. Cross, and rebuilt the nave of Winchester Cathedral. He died in 1404, and was buried at Winchester. The celebrated motto, "Manners maketh man," was first adopted by this bishop.

<sup>120</sup> Thomas Brantingham, a Canon of Exeter, became Bishop in 1369. He founded the Vicars' College, at Exeter. He died in 1394, at Clyst, Devon, and was buried at Exeter.

<sup>121</sup> John of Ghent, the fourth son of King Edward III., was born in 1340; created Earl of Richmond in 1342; Duke of Lancaster, 1362; Lord of Bergerac, 1376, and Duke of Aquitain, 1390; and from 1372 to 1388, he was styled King of Castille and Leon. He was "bon chevalier & grand capitaine de gens d'armes"; and he died in 1399.

Duke of Lancaster Edmund Earl of York<sup>122</sup> Thomas Earl of Buckingham<sup>123</sup> our most dear Uncles Richard Earl of Arundel<sup>124</sup> Hugh Earl of Stafford<sup>125</sup> Michael de la Pole<sup>126</sup> our Chancellor Hugh de Segrave our Treasurer John de Montacute Steward of our Household and others Given by our hand at Westminster the fourteenth day of June in the eighth year of our reign

Waltham

By the King himself and his Council and for fifty marks paid into the Hanaper<sup>127</sup>

*Indorsed.*

Allowed before the Lord the King of the term of St. Hilary in the ninth year of the reign of King Richard the second [1385] roll xxij.

Examined by Thomas de Stanley and Richard de Holm Clerks

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Inrolled in the memoranda of the Exchequer to wit amongst the records of the term of Saint Michael in the fourth year of

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<sup>122</sup> Edmund, surnamed of Langley, the fifth son of King Edward III., was born in 1341, created Earl of Cambridge in 1362; Lord of Wark in 1373; and Duke of York in 1385: and he was a justice of the peace for the county of Northampton.

"Conte de Cantebrigge de renon

Qui eust coer fier come lion."

He died in 1402.

<sup>123</sup> Thomas of Woodstock, the seventh son of King Edward III., was born in 1385. He was created Earl of Buckingham in 1377; Duke of Gloucester, 1385; and Lord of Holderness, 1389. He was "Orgueilleux & présomptueux de manière"; and was styled Earl of Northampton, in right of his wife, Lady Eleanor de Bohun, daughter and heiress of Humphrey, Earl of Northampton. He was murdered in September, 1397.

<sup>124</sup> Richard Fitz-Alan was born in 1346, and succeeded as sixth Earl of Arundel in 1376. He married Lady Elizabeth de Bohun, daughter of William, Earl of Northampton. He was beheaded in September, 1397.

<sup>125</sup> Hugh de Stafford was born about 1342, and succeeded as second Earl of Stafford in 1372. He was a pilgrim in the Holy Land, in April, 1386, and again in September, the same year.

<sup>126</sup> Sir Michael de la Pole, was born about 1330. He purchased the manor of Grafton Regis, Northamptonshire, in 1359-60, and settled it on his son in 1383-84. He was created Earl of Suffolk, August, 1385; and died at Paris, September, 1389.

<sup>127</sup> The hanaper was the King's private treasury, and was kept by the clerk of the hanaper, whose function it was to receive moneys due to the King for the sealing of charters, letters patent, commissions, and writs. Fifty marks amounted to £33. 6s. 8d., a large sum of money at that time.

the reign of King Henry the fourth [1403] on the part of the King's Remembrancer to wit in a certain process touching John Lowdeham.

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Allowed before the Lord the King at Northampton of the term of Easter in the ninth year of the reign of King Henry the fifth after the Conquest [1422] amongst the common pleas.  
roll xxix.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment,  $23\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, and  $16\frac{1}{4}$  inches deep. The first line is ornamented with a large initial letter and a row of vertical leaves. The great seal of England in green wax remains attached to the silk cord, in an almost complete condition.

On the back is written:—

" 14<sup>o</sup> Junij 8<sup>o</sup> Rici 2<sup>4</sup>.

" The charter of Richard the second whereby 2 charters of "Hen: 3<sup>rd</sup> & one of Edw<sup>4</sup>. the 1st are confirmed and fresh "priviledges granted viz<sup>t</sup>. that all pleas of Assize & other pleas "whatsoever happening within the Libertys of Northon may be "held before the Mayor and Bailiffs of the s<sup>t</sup> town for the time "being in the Guildhall of the said Town for ever And that "the Mayor of the said town for the time being shall have the "keeping of the Assize of Bread wine and Beer & of the Assize " & Assay of weights and measures & has power to enquire & "take Cognizance of forestallers and regraters - fflesh & ffish "within the Libertys of the Town."

" 9 "

## Letters Patent of 2nd Henry IV.

3RD OCTOBER, 1400.

THIS grant to the burgesses in aid of inclosing the town is on the same lines as the preceding grants for a similar purpose; and was only to last for the space of two years.

*Translation.*

## Concerning Murage.

The King to his beloved the Burgesses and good men of our town of Northampton Greeting Know ye that we have granted to you in aid of inclosing your aforesaid town for the security and defence of the same town and of the parts adjacent the underwritten customs to be levied and collected on saleable articles coming to the aforesaid town by the hands of good and faithful men to be by you hereunto deputed unto the end of two years next following fully to be completed namely on every load of corn of whatsoever kind for sale one farthing on every horse mare ox or cow for sale one halfpenny on two hides of horse mare ox or cow fresh or salted or tanned for sale one farthing on three salted salmons one farthing on five hogs for sale one farthing on every fresh salmon for sale one farthing on every fresh lamprey for sale one farthing on three salted lampreys one farthing on six sheep for sale one halfpenny on two pigs for sale one farthing on every hundred of skins of lambs kids hares rabbits foxes cats and squirrels for sale one halfpenny on every hundred of badger skins two pence on every great load of cloth for sale one penny on every entire cloth one halfpenny on every hundred of linen canvass cloth of Ireland Galway worsted and Kendal for sale one penny on every worsted cloth called coverlet with . . . for sale one halfpenny on every cloth of silk mixed with gold samite diapre and baudekyn for sale one halfpenny on every cloth not mixed with gold and "chief" of cendal . . . for sale one farthing on every cask of wine for sale one penny on every pipe of wine for sale one halfpenny on every cask of woad two pence on every quarter of woad one halfpenny on every cask of ashes for sale one farthing on every sack or pocket of madder or alum for sale one halfpenny on every cask of oil of olives or of other oil whatsoever for sale three pence on every pipe of oil for sale one penny and a halfpenny on every barrel of oil for sale one halfpenny on every load of cloth or other goods whatsoever for sale one farthing on every cart load of tan for sale one farthing on every hundred weight of . . . three halfpence on every bale of Spanish wax two pence on every

bale of wax of Poland and Lubeck one penny on every hundred weight of fat and tallow for sale one halfpenny on two thousand of onions for sale one farthing on eight bundles of garlick for sale one farthing on every thousand of herrings fresh or salted for sale one halfpenny on every barrel of herrings of Scone for sale one halfpenny on every load of fish for sale one farthing on every hundred of boards for sale one penny on every millstone for sale one farthing on every pair of millstones for sale one penny on every thousand of faggots for sale one penny halfpenny on every thousand of Astelwode for sale one penny on every thousand of turfs for sale one farthing on every quarter of salt for sale one farthing on every stone of cheese and butter for sale one halfpenny on every thousand of great nails for sale one farthing on two thousand of small nails one farthing on every hundred of . . . for sale one halfpenny on two barrels of pitch and fish for sale one farthing on three quarters of tan for sale one farthing on every hundred weight of tin brass and copper for sale one penny on every hundred of steel gads for sale one halfpenny on every hundred of Aberdeen for sale one penny on every hundred of great stock fish for sale one penny on every hundred of small stock fish one halfpenny on ten stone of flax or hemp for sale one farthing on every truss of merchandize of whatsoever kind and on every other thing not above specified coming from whatsoever part to the aforesaid town for sale and exceeding the value of five shillings wools hides tanned skins iron and lead only excepted one farthing So that the money thence arising be employed about the inclosure of the aforesaid town and be converted to no other uses And therefore we do command you that ye do take the said customs there on such like goods and merchandizes unto the end of the said two years in form aforesaid and not otherwise and that the said term of two years being ended the aforesaid customs do utterly cease and be abolished In testimony whereof &c Witness the King at Westminster the 3rd day of October

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Rot: Pat: 2<sup>do</sup> Hen. IV. m.*

## Letters Patent of 9th Henry VI.

18TH MARCH, 1431.

THESE letters patent contain an exemplification of an Act of Parliament for paving and repairing the principal streets of Northampton.

This document has been copied twice into the *Liber Custumarum*; the first time in Norman-French commencing on folio 51a; the second in English commencing on folio 52b, both hereinafter printed.

This writing, which is with the borough muniments, is on parchment, 15 inches wide and 8 inches deep. The commencement and termination are in Latin, the remainder in Norman-French. It is tied through the lower fold with a strip of parchment, but has not had a seal.

On the back is written:—

" 18<sup>o</sup> Martij 9<sup>o</sup> Hen. 6<sup>o</sup>

" Exemplification of an Act of Parliam<sup>t</sup> for paving and repairing certain highways & streets within the Town of Northampton."

" 1430 "

" 10 "

There are also two copies in the Public Record Office, one of which is referred to as:—

*Rot: Parl: 9<sup>o</sup> Hen: VI. N<sup>o</sup>. 23.*

the other:—

*Rot: Pat: 9<sup>o</sup> Hen: VI. 1<sup>o</sup> pt. m. 7.*

## Letters Patent of 17th Henry VI.

20TH MAY, 1439.

THESE letters patent, which are similar to an inspeximus charter, incorporated and confirmed the previous charters

of the 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., and 8th Richard II., without, however, granting any fresh privileges.

*Translation.*

[H]enry by the grace of God [K]ing of England and France and Lord of Ireland To all to whom the present letters shall come Greeting We have inspected the charter of the Lord Richard late King of England after the Conquest the second our Progenitor [R]ichard by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 8th Richard II., 14th June, 1385, printed before on page 68] And the charters and letters aforesaid of such grants liberties franchises and acquittances not revoked with the advice and assent of the Lords spiritual and temporal being in our Parliament holden at Westminster in the first year of our reign Do accept approve and to the now Burgesses of the town aforesaid ratify and confirm as the charters and letters aforesaid reasonably witness and as they ought to use the same and they and their ancestors late burgesses of the town aforesaid the same liberties franchises and acquittances from the time of the making of the charters and letters aforesaid always hitherto have been accustomed reasonably to use and enjoy In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness ourself at Westminster the twentieth day of May in the seventeenth year of our reign.

Examined by John Grakkord } Clerks  
Robert Mouter }

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment,  $29\frac{1}{4}$  inches wide and 16 inches deep. The writing is unornamented, and although spaces have been reserved for the initials H, R, and R they have not been inserted. A portion of the great seal of England still remains.

On the back is written:—

"20<sup>o</sup> Maij 17<sup>o</sup> Hen. 6<sup>o</sup>

"The Charter of Hen: 6<sup>o</sup> whereby two Charters of Hen: 3<sup>o</sup>  
"one of Edw<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>m</sup> & one of Richard the second are confirmed."

"11"

## Charter of 23rd Henry VI.

11TH JUNE, 1445.

BY this charter the King granted that the mayor of the town for the time being should be his escheator in the same town and in the suburbs and fields thereof. With liberty for the mayor and commonalty to acquire lands, tenements, or rents to the value of £40 a year, to be held of the King or other person, without payment of fine or fee for the King's use.

### *Translation.*

Henry by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland To the Archbishops Bishops Abbotts Priors Dukes Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Reeves Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting Know ye that we considering how the men of our town of Northampton for the yearly fee farm of the same town towards us are grievously charged of our special grace and for the singular affection which we bear and have to our beloved the Mayor and commonalty of the same town have granted for us and our heirs that as well every burgess of the town aforesaid who hereafter shall be chosen as Mayor of the same town and shall be Mayor so soon as and when he shall be chosen and preferred as Mayor of the same town as the now Mayor of the town aforesaid be henceforth the escheator<sup>128</sup> of us our heirs and successors in the town aforesaid and the suburbs and fields of the same town during the time when any such burgess shall remain in the office of Mayoralty of the town aforesaid and that the same escheator and his successors may have the same power jurisdiction and authority

<sup>128</sup> The escheator was the officer who observed and certified the King's escheats, or lands or other profits coming to the King by way of forfeiture or failure of heirs. This officer was appointed usually by the Lord Treasurer.

and liberty and other things whatsoever appertaining to the office of escheator in the same town suburbs and fields as other escheators of us and our heirs elsewhere have and shall have within the kingdom of England And that at no time hereafter any other escheator intromit himself of any thing touching the office of escheator in any wise howsoever to be exercised within the town suburbs and fields aforesaid unless only the Mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being and that the said now Mayor shall take his oath well and faithfully to execute the office of our escheator of the town aforesaid before any sufficient and considerable person by pretext of our mandate directed to the same person under our great seal and that every Mayor of the town aforesaid hereafter to be chosen at the time when he shall take his oath before the Barons of the Exchequer of us and our heirs well and faithfully to execute the office of Mayoralty of the town aforesaid shall take his oath before the same Barons well and faithfully to execute the office of escheator of the town aforesaid and shall yearly answer to us and our heirs of the issues and revenues issuing of the said office of escheator at the Exchequer of us and our heirs and that the same Mayor and his successors at the time when they shall take their oath before the aforesaid Barons may lawfully appoint an attorney before the same barons to make their proffers and to account for them in the Exchequer of us and our heirs of the issues of the same Escheatorship yearly Moreover we have given and granted license for us and our heirs aforesaid as much as in us lies to the same now Mayor and commonalty and their successors that they may purchase lands tenements and rents to the value of forty pounds by the year which are holden of us in socage<sup>129</sup> or burgage<sup>130</sup> or of other persons whomsoever by any service whatsoever without fine or fee to be paid to our use To have and to hold to the same Mayor and commonalty and their successors to their relief for ever the statute passed for not putting lands and tenements to mortmain or although express mention of the

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<sup>129</sup> "A tenure of lands by or for certain inferiour or husbandly services to bee performed to the Lord of the Fee."

<sup>130</sup> "A tenure proper to cities and townes whereby men of cities or borowes, hold their lands or tenements of the King or other Lord for a certain yearly rent."

true value of the premises or of other gifts or grants heretofore made to the Mayor and commonalty of the town aforesaid by us or our progenitors be not made in these presents or any act ordinance or appointment made passed or ordained notwithstanding provided it be found by inquisition thereof to be duly taken and rightly returned into the chancery of us or our heirs that the same may be done without loss or prejudice to us or our heirs or others whomsoever These being witnesses The Venerable Fathers J Archbishop of Canterbury<sup>131</sup> Primate of all England and Legate of the Apostolic See our Chancellor W Bishop of Salisbury<sup>132</sup> and Thomas Bishop of Bath and Wells<sup>133</sup> our most dear uncle Humphrey Duke of Gloucester<sup>134</sup> and our most dear cousins John Duke of Exeter<sup>135</sup> and Humphrey Duke of Buckingham<sup>136</sup> John Marquis of Dorset<sup>137</sup> and William Marquis of Suffolk<sup>138</sup> Steward of our Household Richard Earl

<sup>131</sup> John Stafford, the son of Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, was first Dean and subsequently Bishop of Wells; in 1443 he became Archbishop of Canterbury. He died at Maidstone in 1443, and was buried before the Lady Chapel in Canterbury Cathedral. "Archbishop Stafford seems to have been distinguished either as chancellor or archbishop by no very remarkable ability."

<sup>132</sup> William Ayscough the confessor of King Henry VI. became Bishop of Salisbury in 1438. He was murdered by a mob at Edington, Wilts., in 1450, and was there buried.

<sup>133</sup> Thomas de Beckington, Dean of Arches, and Archdeacon of Bucks., was consecrated Bishop of Bath and Wells on the 13th October, 1443, in the old collegiate church of Eton. He built the Western cloisters and repaired the Palace at Wells. He died in 1466, and was buried in Wells Cathedral near the Presbytery.

<sup>134</sup> Humphrey of Lancaster the fourth son of King Henry IV., was born in 1391, and created Earl of Pembroke and Duke of Gloucester in 1414. In 1437 he was constable of the Castle and steward of the forest of Rockingham. He was said to be of a "beau personnage" and a "strenuissimus princeps." He died in 1446.

<sup>135</sup> John de Holland was born in 1394, he was restored Earl of Huntingdon about 1416, created Earl of Exeter in 1433, and died in April, 1447.

<sup>136</sup> Humphrey Stafford was born in 1402 and succeeded as sixth Earl of Stafford the next year. He was also styled Earl of Buckingham, Hereford, Essex, Northampton, and Perche, and he was a justice of the peace for Northamptonshire. He married Lady Anne Neville, daughter of the first Earl of Westmorland. He was killed at the battle of Northampton, 10th July, 1460.

<sup>137</sup> Edmund Beaufort was born about 1402, and created Marquis of Dorset in 1443. Possibly the word "John" was a clerical error.

<sup>138</sup> William de la Pole was born in 1395, and succeeded as fourth Earl of Suffolk in 1415. He was possessed of many titles and many honours. He was murdered the 2nd May, 1450.

of Salisbury<sup>139</sup> and John Earl of Shrewsbury<sup>140</sup> John Viscount of Beaumont<sup>141</sup> our beloved and faithful Sir Ralph Cromwell Knight<sup>142</sup> and Sir Ralph Botiler Knight our Treasurer of England and Chamberlain of our Household Master Adam Molins Keeper of our Privy Seal and others Given by our hand at Westminster the eleventh day of June in the twenty-third year of our reign

By writ of Privy Seal and of the date  
aforesaid by authority of Parliament.

Kirkeby

*Indorsed.*

Inrolled in the memoranda of the Exchequer of the twenty-fourth year of King Henry the sixth amongst the records of the term of S. Michael Roll 2 on the part of the Treasurer's Remembrancer.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment 17½ inches wide and 11½ inches deep. The first line is beautifully ornamented. The initial H is surmounted by a crown, and encloses an angel bearing an heraldic shield, which, however is blank, on the last scroll of the line are the words: "Rege fac salutem dñe." The great seal of England in green wax is attached: it is fairly perfect.

On the back is written:—

" 11<sup>o</sup> Junij 23<sup>o</sup> Hen: 6<sup>o</sup>

" Grant of Henry 6<sup>th</sup> wherby 'tis granted int alia that the  
" Mayor of Northampton for the time being shall for ever  
" herafter be Escheator there."

" 12 "

" Henricus 6<sup>o</sup> maiore esse eschaer."

<sup>139</sup> Richard Neville was born in 1400, and created Earl of Salisbury in 1429. He filled many important offices in England. In November, 1459, he was attainted; restored in blood and honours in October the next year; and ultimately beheaded the following December.

<sup>140</sup> John Talbot who was born in 1390, was created Earl of Shrewsbury in 1442. He was a justice of the peace for Northamptonshire. Jean de Waurin says " On le tenuit pour ce tempz estre le sage et vaillant chevalier du royaume d' Angleterre." He was killed at Chastillion, the 20th July, 1453.

<sup>141</sup> John Beaumont was born in 1409, and succeeded as sixth Baron Beaumont and Viscount Beaumont 1440. He was killed in 1460.

<sup>142</sup> Sir Ralph Cromwell was possessed of property at Sutton, Colly Weston, and Paston in this county.

## Letters Patent of 30th Henry VI.

12TH MARCH, 1452.

THESE letters patent recite the last charter of 11th June, 1445, and state that in consequence of two Acts of Parliament of the 18th and 30th Henry VI., the said charter had become void, to the damage of the men of Northampton, so the King regranted the privileges in the same form as is contained in the said charter by this document.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied these letters patent in Latin into that book, commencing on folio 107b, hereinafter printed.

### *Translation.*

[H]ENRY by the grace of God [K]ing of [E]ngland and [F]rance and Lord of Ireland to all to whom these present letters shall come Greeting You must know that whereas we considering how grievously the men of our town of Northampton have been burthened for the fee farm of that town every year with us on the 11th day of June in the 23rd year of our reign of our special grace and because of the singular affection which we have had and borne towards our beloved Mayor and commonalty of the town aforesaid have granted for us and our heirs that as well every burgess of the town aforesaid who from that time should be about to be elected Mayor of that town and should be actually Mayor and as soon as he shall have been so elected and appointed Mayor of that town as the present Mayor of the town aforesaid should be from that time our Escheator and the Escheator of our heirs and successors in the town aforesaid and in the suburbs and fields of the same town during the time that any such burgess shall remain in the office of Mayor of the said town and that the same Escheator and his successors should have the same power jurisdiction authority and liberty and all other things belonging to the office of Escheator in the same town suburbs and fields as the other Escheators of ourselves and our heirs elsewhere within the realm of England had and shall have

And that in no future time henceforward shall any other Escheator interfere about anything that appertains to the office of Escheator to be exercised within the town suburbs and fields aforesaid in any way except only the Mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being And that the said Mayor shall take his oath concerning the office of our Escheator of the town aforesaid well and faithfully to be performed before some notable and sufficient person under the authority of our mandate to be directed to the same person under our great seal and that every Mayor of the town aforesaid from that time forward to be elected at the time that he should take his oath before the Barons of our Exchequer and those of our heirs as to the good and faithful discharge of the office of Mayor of the town aforesaid may take his oath before the same Barons as to the good and faithful discharge of the office of Escheator of the town aforesaid and may answer to us and to our heirs concerning the outgoings and revenues due from the said office of Escheator to our Exchequer and that of our heirs And that the same Mayor and his successors at the time when they should take their oath before the aforesaid Barons may lawfully proceed before the same Barons by their attorneys to make up their accounts and to account for them in the Exchequer of ourselves and our heirs as to the outgoings of the same escheatorship every year as in our charter for that purpose conferred is contained And now on behalf of the said men we are given to understand that our charter and all and singular the things in the same contained by the force and virtue of a certain Act<sup>148</sup> in our Parliament begun at Westminster in the 18th year of our reign and finished at Leicester and of a certain other Act<sup>149</sup> in our last Parliament held in like manner at Westminster are void and of no effect to the same men as is said to the no small loss and grievance of those men and our town aforesaid Wherefore they have made humble supplication to us that we would be graciously pleased to grant them other letters patent of ours in this matter We being favourably inclined to their supplication in this matter of our special grace and because of the singular affection which we have and bear towards our beloved Mayor and commonalty of that town have now granted anew for us and our heirs that as well every Burgess of the town

<sup>148</sup> These appear to have been private acts, and are not in the statutes at large.

aforesaid who shall hereafter be about to be elected Mayor of that town and shall be actually Mayor and as soon as he shall be elected and appointed Mayor of that town as the present Mayor of the town aforesaid shall be from that time forward our Escheator and Escheator of our heirs and successors in the town aforesaid and the suburbs and fields of the same town during the time that every such burgess shall remain in the office of Mayor of the town aforesaid And that the same Escheator and his successors may have the same power jurisdiction authority and liberty and all other things whatsoever belonging to the office of escheator in the same town suburbs and fields as other Escheators of us and our heirs elsewhere within the realm of England have and shall have And that at no future time may any other Escheator interfere about anything that appertains to the office of escheator to be exercised within the town suburbs and fields aforesaid in any way except only the Mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being And that the said Mayor now being take his oath concerning the office of escheator of our town aforesaid well and faithfully to be performed before some sufficient and notable person under the authority of our mandate to be directed to the same person under our great seal and that every Mayor of the town aforesaid hereafter to be elected at the time that he shall take his oath before the Barons of our Exchequer and those of our heirs as to the good and faithful discharge of the office of mayor of the town aforesaid may take his oath before the same Barons as to the good and faithful discharge of the office of escheator of the town aforesaid and may answer to us and to our heirs aforesaid concerning the outgoings and revenues due from the said office of escheator to our Exchequer and that of our heirs every year And that the same Mayor and his successors at the time that they shall take their oath before the aforesaid Barons may lawfully proceed before the same Barons by their attorneys to make up their accounts and to account for them in the Exchequer of us and our heirs as to the outgoings of the said escheatorship every year In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Westminster the 12th day of March in the 30th year of our reign

Godyng

By writ of Privy Seal and of the date aforesaid  
by authority of Parliament.

*Indorsed.*

Enrolled in the memoranda of the Exchequer of the year xxxij of Henry VI. [1453] amongst the records of the term of St. Michael Roll xxvj on the part of the Treasurer's Remembrancer.

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the corporation, are written in Latin on plain parchment, 20 inches wide and 15 inches deep. The writing is unornamented: a large space has been left for the initial H, and smaller spaces in the first line for the capitals of *Rex* and other words, but none of these letters have been filled in. A fragment of the great seal of England remains attached to the silk cord. The document has been slightly injured by damp.

On the back is written:—

" 12<sup>o</sup> Macij 30<sup>o</sup> Hen. VI.

" The Charter of Hen: the sixth whereby the Mayor of Northamptōn for the time being is appointed Escheator there de  
" Novo, for that a former Grant made to the same Effect 11<sup>o</sup>  
" Junij 23<sup>o</sup> Hen 6<sup>o</sup> is became vid by reason of two several Acts of  
" Pal within mentioned to be pased since the making thereof."

" 1451 " " 13 "

There is also a copy in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Rot: Pat: 30<sup>mo</sup> Hen. VI. 2<sup>nd</sup> pt. m. 4.*

## Charter of 38th Henry VI.

14TH MARCH, 1459.

THIS charter recites that the men and burgesses of Northamptōn had rendered notable services to the King, and further that they had from the time of legal memory enjoyed liberties and franchises. Therefore by this charter, the King, by reason of his singular affection to the then mayor of the town, incorporated the town by the name of the mayor, bailiffs, and

burgesses of Northampton, and appointed the mayor justice of the peace for the same town.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied the whole of this charter in Latin into that book, commencing at folio 110a, herein-after printed.

*Translation.*

HENRY by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland To the Archbishops Bishops Abbotts Priors Dukes Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Reeves Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting Know ye that we considering not only the great and memorable services which the faithful men and Burgesses of our town of Northampton have heretofore done to us but also the great and memorable services which they have now lately performed by their daily attendance on and assistance to our royal person at their heavy costs expenses and charges for the resistance reduction and correction of divers of our rebellious people on which account they and by payment of the fee farm of the town aforesaid are very much burthened and charged as we have heard And whereas also the Mayor and Bailiffs in the town aforesaid have existed continually from time whereof memory is not and have had and obtained divers liberties franchises acquittances and immunities of the grants of our famous progenitors formerly Kings of England and our own for the sound and fitting government of the same town Willing therefore and for the singular affection which we bear and have to our beloved William Austyn Esquire<sup>144</sup> the now Mayor of the town aforesaid and the Burgesses and commonalty of the same town more graciously to show our royal munificence to the same Burgesses in this behalf of our special grace and of our mere motion and certain knowledge Have granted and by this our present charter confirmed for us our heirs and successors to the Burgesses of the town aforesaid and their successors for ever the liberties franchises acquittances and immunities underwritten to wit That the same town be for ever incorporated of one Mayor two Bailiffs and Burgesses and that the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors Mayors Bailiffs and Burgesses of the

<sup>144</sup> William Austyn, or Austin, was mayor of the town in 1459-60, 1468-69, and 1476-77.

same town so incorporated be one perpetual community incorporated in deed and name by the name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the same town and may have perpetual succession And that the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors aforesaid by the same name be persons fit in the law to prosecute and defend all manner of pleas suits plaints and demands and also actions real personal and mixed moved or to be moved in any of the courts whatsoever of us or our heirs or others whomsoever as well before us and our heirs as before any spiritual and secular justices and judges whomsoever And that they in the same may plead and be impleaded and answer and be answered Also we have granted for us and our heirs aforesaid to the aforesaid now Mayor and Burgesses and their successors that whensoever any Mayor of the said town for the time being within the time of his office of Mayoralty in any manner shall happen to die or by reason of infirmity or in any other cause to withdraw or vacate so that the said office cannot be duly executed then the said burgesses of the town aforesaid their heirs and successors may have full power jurisdiction authority and liberty at the court of hustings of the said town next to be holden after the death withdrawal or vacating of such Mayor to choose amongst themselves one other of the co-burgesses of the said town as Mayor of the said town And which Mayor so elected or to be elected shall take his oath of the office of mayoralty and escheator of the same town before the Barons of the Exchequer of us and our heirs well and faithfully to do observe keep and execute the same offices and yearly to answer to us and our heirs of the issues and revenues issuing of the said office of escheator at the Exchequer of us and our heirs as before it hath been accustomed yearly to be done so often as the case aforesaid shall happen to arise And further of our more abundant grace we have granted for us our heirs and successors to the aforesaid now Mayor and Burgesses of the town aforesaid and their successors that as well the same now Mayor as every Burgess of the town aforesaid who hereafter shall be chosen as Mayor of the same town and shall be Mayor so soon as and when he shall be elected and appointed as Mayor of the same town thenceforth shall be a justice or custos to keep the peace of us our heirs or successors within the town aforesaid the suburbs and fields of the same town as they are extended during the time in which

any such Burgess shall be in the office of the mayoralty of the town aforesaid And giving and granting to the same Mayor Burgesses and their successors who hereafter shall be chosen Mayor of the same town full authority and power by the tenor of these presents to do exercise and execute all and singular the things which to a justice or custos of our peace within the town aforesaid the suburbs and fields of the same town as they are extended duly pertain to be done for ever And that no warrant of supersedeas for security of the peace under the testimony of any justice of us our heirs and successors assigned or to be assigned to keep the peace in the County of Northampton be hereafter allowed within the liberty of the said town unless the names of the manucaptors<sup>145</sup> and the sum in which the said manucaptors before such justice are bound to us by their recognizance in this behalf be fully expressed and declared that the said Mayor and his successors who have the keeping of the peace there as well of the grant of us as of our progenitors may duly certify us in any of our courts whatsoever concerning such security AND LASTLY of our more abundant grace we have granted for us our heirs and successors to the aforesaid now Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors that neither the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses nor either of them nor their successors nor either of them dwelling and residing within the said town and the suburbs of the same hereafter be made taxers assessors or collectors or taxer assessor or collector of any tax quota or subsidy or fifteenth and tenth or of any other tax imposition or tollage whatsoever to us our heirs or successors to be granted by the commonalty of our kingdom of England of or in the county of Northampton aforesaid or elsewhere except only in the aforesaid town of Northampton and the suburbs and fields of the same as they are extended but that they and every of them be hereof altogether acquitted and discharged for ever These being witnesses The venerable fathers Thomas Archbishop of Canterbury<sup>146</sup>

<sup>145</sup> Manucaptors or mainpernors were those who were sureties or gave bail for one accused.

<sup>146</sup> Thomas Bouchier became successively Bishop of Worcester in 1435, of Ely in 1443, and Archbishop in 1454. He died in 1486, and was buried in Canterbury Cathedral to the north of the high altar. "'We only gathered from him flowers instead of fruit,' says the monk who writes his life, 'as from a useless tree. Except on the day of his installation, he would never celebrate mass or solemn service in his cathedral.'

and W Archbishop of York<sup>147</sup> W Bishop of Winchester<sup>148</sup> our Chancellor and L Bishop of Durham<sup>149</sup> Keeper of our Privy Seal and our most dear cousins Henry Duke of Exeter<sup>150</sup> and Humphrey Duke of Buckingham<sup>151</sup> John Earl of Shrewsbury<sup>152</sup> and James Earl of Wiltshire<sup>153</sup> our Treasurer John Viscount of Beaumont<sup>154</sup> and Henry Viscount Bourghchier and also our beloved and faithful Sir John de Beauchamp Knight Steward of our Household and Sir Richard Tunstall our Chancellor and others Given by our hand at Westminster the 14th day of March in the thirty eighth year of our reign

By writ of Privy Seal and of the date  
aforesaid by authority of Parliament

Naylor

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment, 20 inches wide, and 10½ inches deep. The first line is ornamented with initial letters. The cord worked through the lower edge is twisted of gold and silver thread, silk, and cotton. The seal has gone.

On the back is written:—

“ 14° Marcij 38° Hen. 6°

<sup>147</sup> William Boothe was a Canon of St. Paul's, London; and in 1447 he was appointed Bishop of Lichfield; in 1452 he was translated to York. He died in 1464, and was buried at Southwell.

<sup>148</sup> William Waynflete, a native of Waynflete, Lincolnshire, was elected Bishop of Winchester in 1447. He founded St. Mary Magdalene College, Oxford, and the Free School, at Waynflete; and was Chancellor of England from 1449 to 1459. He died in 1486, and was buried at Winchester.

<sup>149</sup> Lawrence Boothe, the half-brother of William Boothe, and Chancellor of England, was appointed by Papal bull, through the interest of Queen Margaret, Bishop of Durham in 1457; and in 1476 he was translated to York. He died in 1480, and was buried at Southwell.

<sup>150</sup> Henry Holand was born in 1430, and succeeded as second Duke of Exeter in 1447. He was Constable of Fotheringhay Castle in 1459. He was attainted 4th November 1461; and in 1473 he was found dead in the sea.

<sup>151</sup> For note as to Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, see page 79.

<sup>152</sup> John Talbot, the son of the first Earl of Shrewsbury, was born in 1413, and succeeded as Earl in 1453. He was killed at the battle of Northampton, 10th July, 1460.

<sup>153</sup> James Butler, son of the fourth Earl of Ormond, was born in 1420, and created Earl of Wiltshire in 1449. He was beheaded in 1461.

<sup>154</sup> John Beaumont, son of the fifth Baron Beaumont, was born in 1409, succeeded as the sixth Baron in 1413; and was created Viscount Beaumont in 1440. He also was killed the 10th July, 1460.

"The Charter of Hen. 6<sup>th</sup> whereby the Town of Northampton  
"is incorporated by the name of the Mayor Bailiffs & Burgeses  
"of that Town & by that name are capacitated to sue and be  
"sued provision is also made in case of the death &c. of a Mayor  
"to pceed to a fresh Eleccon and 'tis granted that no Burges for  
"the future shall be obliged to collect any Tax out of the libertys  
"of the town."

"14"

## Letters Patent of 1st Edward IV.

20TH FEBRUARY, 1461.

THESE letters patent promulgated a general pardon after the King's accession to the throne on the 28th June, 1461, for all offences committed before the 4th November, the same year. A few persons are exempted by name, as well as all rebels in Scotland and France, and certain others.

The following translation is an abstract only of the original document, which is very lengthy.

### *Abbreviated Translation.*

Edward by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland To all his bailiffs and faithful men to whom the present letters shall come Greeting Know ye that by our especial grace and out of our certain knowledge and mere motion We pardon remit and release to our faithful men of the town of Northampton and to the burgesses of Northampton all manner of transgressions offences misprisons contempts and violences by the same men committed before the 4th day of November last past any statute to the contrary notwithstanding And we also pardon to all others all manner of murders rapes rebellions insurrections felonies and other transgressions Provided always that no pardon

of ours be extended to John Waleys<sup>155</sup> late of Thorneton in the county of Devon Esquire Roger Thorp late of London Esquire William Phillips otherwise called William Ferrou late of London Esquire Edward Thorneburgh late of Carlisle Gentleman John Amyas late of Walton in the county of York Gentleman Michael Rygby late of Kingston-on-Thames in the county of Surrey Yeoman and Thomas Sergeantson late of York Yeoman nor to any other person attaint by the authority of Parliament nor to rebels in Scotland or France nor to any officers who had to render accounts In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Westminster the 20th day of February in the first year of our reign

By the King himself  
ffrankes

*Indorsed.*

Inrolled in the memoranda of the Exchequer that is to say amongst the records of the term of Trinity in the second year of King Edward the fourth Roll on the part of the King's Remembrancer.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment, 19½ inches wide, and 10 inches deep. The capital letters of the first line are slightly ornamented. The greater portion of the great seal of England, in white wax, much defaced, remains attached to a strip of parchment.

On the back is written:—

" 20<sup>o</sup> feb : j<sup>o</sup> Edri 4<sup>o</sup>

" A Pardon under the Broad Seal of all Treasons Murders  
" Rapes Rebellions Insurrections Conspiracys Trespasses & of-  
" fences whatsoever committed by the Men or Burgessses of  
" Northampton before the 4<sup>th</sup> day of Nov: last past certain  
" persons being exempted by name."

" 15 "

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<sup>155</sup> None of the persons exempted from this pardon were connected with the borough or county of Northampton.

## Letters Patent of 2nd Edward IV.

30TH MAY, 1462.

BY these letters patent the King remitted to the town of Northampton the annual sum of £20, part of the farm of the town, for the term of 20 years.

### *Translation.*

For the pardon of our Men of Northampton.

The King to all his Bailiffs and faithful men to whom the present letters shall come Greeting Know ye that we of our certain knowledge and mere motion have pardoned remised and released for us and our heirs to the Mayor and Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty of our town of Northampton and their heirs and successors by whatsoever name they are incorporated called or known twenty pounds parcel of one hundred and eighty marks of the farm of the town aforesaid of which the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty of the said town or either of them was or were then charged towards us in our Exchequer of record by the name of the men of the town of Northamton or by any other name whatsoever for the farm of their town And we do grant that the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty of the same town and their heirs and successors of the aforesaid twenty pounds parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and eighty marks of the farm of the town aforesaid during the term of twenty years thence next following towards us and our heirs yearly in payment of the fee farm of the same town shall be quit and discharged And that the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty and their heirs and successors shall hold the town aforesaid quit and discharged of the same twenty pounds towards us our heirs and successors during the same term. And that notwithstanding any gift or grant as aforesaid to the present Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men or commonalty of the town or their predecessors by us or our progenitors or others of our kingdom of England expressed to be in existence

or any statute ordinance act or other thing to the contrary notwithstanding In testimony &c. Witness the King at Leicester the thirtieth day of May.

By writ of Privy Seal and of the date aforesaid.

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as :—

*Rot: Pat: 2<sup>do</sup> Ed. IV., p. 1, m. 14.*

## Letters Patent of 2nd Edward IV.

10TH JULY, 1462.

THESE letters patent, which are of the nature of an inspeximus charter, inspect and confirm the charters of 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., 8th Richard II., 30th Henry VI., and 38th Henry VI.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied these letters patent in Latin into that book, commencing at folio 105a, herein-after printed.

### *Translation.*

Edward by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland to all to whom these present letters come Greeting We have inspected a charter of the Lord Richard the second after the Conquest lately King of England made in these words Richard by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 8th Richard II., 14th June, 1385, printed before at page 68] We have also inspected the letters patent of Henry the sixth lately in fact but not in right King of England made in these words Henry by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 30th Henry VI., 12th March, 1452, printed before at page 81] We have moreover inspected a charter of the aforesaid Henry the

sixth lately King as is aforesaid made in these words Henry by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 38th Henry VI., 14th March, 1459, printed before at page 84] Now we the charters and letters aforesaid and all and singular the things contained therein ratifying the same for us and our heirs as much as in us is do accept approve and to our beloved the now Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the aforesaid town and their successors ratify and confirm in manner as the charters and letters aforesaid do reasonably testify In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Westminster the 10th day of July in the second year of our reign

For five marks [i.e., £3. 6s. 8d.] paid in the Hanaper  
Suerendum

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as :—

*Rot: Pat: 2<sup>do</sup> Ed. IV., p. 5 m. 26.*

## Letters Patent of 18th Edward IV.

2ND MAY, 1478.

THE King by these letters patent granted that all future mayors and escheators should take their oaths of office in the town of Northampton, instead of before the barons of the King's exchequer, in London. And the King further remitted the before mentioned sum of £20 for the further term of 12 years, after the expiration of the before mentioned term of 20 years.

Mr. Simon Bradfield, mayor in 1478-9, was the first sworn into office in the town, by virtue of this grant.

### *Translation.*

EDWARD by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland To all to whom these present letters shall

come Greeting Know ye that whereas the Lord Edward the first our progenitor [The letters patent of the 27th Edward I., 27th May, 1299, hereinbefore printed at page 56, shortly recited as far as relates to the appointment of the Mayor] WE considering the charges and expenses to which the said Burgesses of our aforesaid town have for a long time sustained in taking the oath of the office of Mayor aforesaid at the Exchequer of us and of others our progenitors to the great impoverishment of the same town have of our special grace granted to the now Mayor Burgesses and commonalty of the aforesaid town and their successors that neither they nor any of them shall from henceforth present at the Exchequer of us or of our heirs any one by them or any of them elected mayor in any wise to take before the Barons of the same Exchequer the oath of the office of Mayor or for the mayoralty of the said town But that every Mayor of the same town to be hereafter elected shall annually within the octaves of the Feast of Saint Michael next after his election take such his oath faithfully to execute the said office of Mayor or of the mayorship and all and singular the things concerning the same office before the last Mayor there his predecessor and the Recorder of the same town for the time being and the four Coroners of the same town or two of their predecessors the Recorders and Coroners or two of them at least for the time being in the "Guihald" of the same town in all things well and faithfully to observe keep and execute the same office without any personal presentation or prosecution at the said Exchequer of us and our heirs or elsewhere without the said town of Northampton to be hereafter in anywise made for taking such oath of office AND WE have moreover granted for us and our heirs aforesaid that every such last predecessor of the Mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being and the Recorder and Coroners or two at least of them as is aforesaid for the time being may by these presents have full power and authority to receive the oath of such Mayor of the town aforesaid to be henceforth elected in form aforesaid to be hereafter taken yearly within the aforesaid octaves for the office of mayor or of the mayorship of the town aforesaid AND WE WILL that every Escheator of the same town for the time being shall every year for ever within the octaves aforesaid next following the election of such mayor every year within the said town and not elsewhere take his oath well and faithfully to

execute the office of escheator in manner and form fit and convenient without that the said Escheator of the same town or his successors be compelled to make any such his or their oath without the same town otherwise than we have above granted And we will that always every year within fifteen days next after such election of the mayor of the town aforesaid we be certified at the Exchequer of us our heirs or successors under the seal of the mayor of the same town of Northampton of the name of the Mayor and Escheator thereof And further whereas we on the thirtieth day of May in the second year of our reign [the letters patent of the 2nd Edward IV., 30th May, 1462, hereinbefore printed at page 91, shortly recited as far as relates to the remission of the payment of the annual sum of twenty pounds] WE of our abundant grace have granted and these presents do grant that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses men and commonalty of the same town for the time being and every of them their heirs and successors be yearly in the payment of the farm of the same town acquitted and discharged towards us and our heirs from the time of the expiration or ending of the said term of twenty years for the term of twelve years next following the same expiration or ending of the said twenty years from twenty pounds parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and eighty marks yearly for the farm of the aforesaid town And that the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty and their heirs and successors may hold the town aforesaid acquitted and discharged towards us and our heirs from the said twenty pounds from the day of the expiration or termination of the said term of twenty years for the term of twelve years next after the same expiration or termination although express mention of the true yearly value or of any other value of the premises or of any of them or of any gifts or grants heretofore made to the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty and their successors or to any one or more of their predecessors and successors by us or by any of our progenitors or predecessors heretofore Kings of England is not in these presents made or any statute act or ordinance made to the contrary notwithstanding IN testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Westminster the second day of May in the eighteenth year of our reign

By the same King and by the authority of the  
same Parliament. Morton

*Indorsed.*

Inrolled in the memoranda of the Exchequer that is to say amongst the records of the term of Saint Michael in the eighteenth year of King Edward the fourth first roll on the part of the King's Remembrancer

Inrolled also amongst the memoranda of the said Exchequer that is to say amongst the presentments of the term of Saint Michael in the year xviiiij King Edward iiiij<sup>a</sup> R<sup>o</sup> vymno On the part of the Rem. of the Treasury

These letters as far as they relate to the twenty pounds released to the Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty of Northampton for the term of twelve years are rendered void by the letters patent of the 30th day of March in the first year of the reign of King Richard the third whereby the King pardoned remitted and released for himself and his heirs to the mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty aforesaid and their heirs and successors the said sum of twenty pounds of the farm of Northampton from the second year of King Richard III.

And they are quit

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin on plain parchment, 23 inches wide and 14*½* inches deep. Spaces have been left in the first line for initial letters, which have not been inserted. The red and black cord remains, but the seal has gone.

On the back is written:—

"2<sup>o</sup> Maij 18<sup>o</sup> Edri 4<sup>o</sup>

"The Charter of Edw<sup>4</sup>. 4<sup>b</sup> wherein is recited the Charter of "Edw<sup>4</sup>. the first & it is hereby granted (inter alia) that the "Mayor of Northampton shall for ever hereafter be sworn into "his office within the Octave of Saint Michael in the Guildhall "of the said town before the last Mayor and the Recorder for "the time being & the four Coroners of the said town or two of "them & not before the Barons of the Exchequer as formerly "And also that the escheator of the said town shall likewise take "the oath of office at the time aforesaid mentioned within the "said town and not elsewhere."

"16"

## Letters Patent of 1st Richard III.

30TH MARCH, 1484.

THESE letters patent recite that whereas the town had in times past prospered, it was then in a piteous condition, the inhabitants fallen into poverty, and almost half the town being desolate. The King therefore remitted to the town for ever 50 marks of the farm of the town.

### *Translation.*

RICHARD by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland TO ALL to whom these present letters shall come Greeting WHEREAS our most dear brother the Lord Edward the fourth late King of England now deceased by his letters patent which we have inspected [the letters patent of the 2nd Edward IV., 30th May, 1462, hereinbefore printed at page 91; and of the 18th Edward IV., 2nd May, 1478, hereinbefore printed at page 93, are both shortly recited as far as relates to the remission of the payment of the annual sum of twenty pounds parcel of the before mentioned sum of one hundred and twenty pounds of the farm of the town of Northampton for the periods of twenty and twelve years respectively] Now FROM the lamentable information of our beloved William Lynde<sup>165</sup> the now Mayor of the town aforesaid and the Burgesses and Bailiffs of the same town it hath been sufficiently shown to us that their predecessors formerly inhabiting the aforesaid town of Northampton in the remote times of our noble progenitors formerly Kings of England after the first

<sup>165</sup> William Lynde, or Lyne, was mayor of the town in 1484-5.

incorporation of the same town in their goods and means in divers ways prospered and the town aforesaid so in every quarter was inhabited that scarcely any house in the same remained desolate or unoccupied so that one hundred and twenty pounds yearly due to our said progenitors formerly Kings of England of the fee farm of the town aforesaid long after the incorporation of the same by the then Bailiffs of the same town for the time being could be paid out of the rents profits and revenues arising and appertaining within the same town to the payment of the fee farm aforesaid without charges of their own proper goods and which town in times now lately passed hath fallen into so great desolation and ruin and the inhabitants of the same have fallen into poverty by the misfortunes and great charges and no small inconvenience labours and various expenses sustained and had and are so at present so that almost half of the same town (which is grievously to be deplored) remains desolate and destroyed and destitute of fit persons to sustain the office of Bailiffs and the ordinary yearly charges within the town aforesaid hereafter to be made or paid to us or our heirs insomuch that the men and Burgesses and especially the Bailiffs of the same town for the time being daily sustain so great and insupportable loss in payment of the aforesaid fee farm of one hundred and twenty pounds which they and their predecessors by the names of the men of the town of Northampton for the fee farm of their town from time whereof the memory of man is not were bound to pay and still are bound to pay to us at the Exchequer of us and our progenitors aforesaid and other our predecessors late Kings of England that the same Bailiffs for the time being fifty three pounds six shillings and eight pence at least yearly now and more in years past of their own goods beyond the said yearly ordinary charges which they by reason of their offices aforesaid have sustained and have been accustomed to sustain within the town aforesaid were bound and still are bound to pay to us and our progenitors and predecessors aforesaid on account of such great and insupportable charges very many of the burgesses and inhabitants of the town aforesaid who seemed fit by their good conduct and means to sustain and occupy the aforesaid office of Bailiffs of the town aforesaid and all charges incumbent on the same before the times in which they thought they should be elected to the same offices altogether withdrew with their goods from the town aforesaid and daily on that account so with-

draw so that within two or three years now ensuing few or no fit men in their goods and means may be found (which God forbid) to bear or exercise any such office within the town aforesaid as aforesaid And as is likely to be the consequence that they will scarcely be able to answer us or our heirs of any part of the fee farm of the town aforesaid unless they are graciously succoured by us WHEREUPON they have humbly besought us that we would vouchsafe graciously to regard them with pity and extend to them our abundant grace in the premises And which Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses are willing the said letters patent of the said late King the date whereof is the aforesaid second day of May in the eighteenth year aforesaid as to the aforesaid twenty pounds pardoned to them for the aforesaid term of twelve years by the same late King as is aforesaid to restore to our Chancery to be cancelled to the intent that we would graciously vouchsafe to grant our letters patent to the same now Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty of the town aforesaid and their successors in form following WE the premises considering and certainly knowing the same to be true and for that because the same now Mayor and Bailiffs and Burgesses the same letters patent as to the aforesaid twenty pounds by the said late King for the said term of twelve years in form aforesaid pardoned have restored to us in our Chancery aforesaid to the intent aforesaid to be cancelled And which letters are so there cancelled OF our special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion have pardoned remised and released and by these presents do pardon remise and release for us and our heirs as much as in us lies to the aforesaid now Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty of the said town of Northampton and their heirs and successors for ever by whatsoever name they were incorporated or called or known fifty marks [£33. 6s. 8d.] parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and twenty pounds of the farm of the town aforesaid of which the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses Men and Commonalty of the said town or either of them yearly is or are charged towards us in our Exchequer of Record by the name of the men of the town of Northampton or other name whatsoever for the farm of their town And also we grant to the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses Men and Commonalty of the same town and their heirs and successors that they of the aforesaid fifty marks parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and twenty

pounds for the farm of the town aforesaid from the feast of Saint Michael last past hitherto and henceforth yearly for ever towards us our heirs and successors in payment of the fee farm of the same town be altogether quit and discharged and that the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses Men and Commonalty and their heirs and successors hold the town aforesaid quit and discharged of the same fifty marks towards us our heirs and successors from the aforesaid Feast of Saint Michael last past hitherto and henceforth for ever without the impeachment molestation interruption or grievance of us our heirs or successors Justices Barons of our Exchequer Sheriffs Escheators Receivers or other the officers or ministers whomsoever of us our heirs or successors or either of them without any account answer or reason or any other thing to us our heirs or successors aforesaid or either of them for the aforesaid fifty marks or any part thereof hereafter to be rendered paid or done in any wise howsoever Although express mention of the true yearly value of the premises or either of them or of other gifts or grants to the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses Men and Commonalty and their successors or either of them or to any of their predecessors and their successors heretofore made by us or by any of our progenitors or predecessors late Kings of England in these presents be not made or any statute act or ordinance to the contrary thereof made passed or ordained or any other thing cause or matter whatsoever notwithstanding IN testimony whereof we have caused these letters to be made patent WITNESS myself at Nottingham the thirtieth day of March in the first year of our reign

By writ of privy seal and of the date aforesaid  
by authority of Parliament

Wheler

*Indorsed.*

Inrolled in the memoranda of the Exchequer of the first year of the reign of King Richard the third to wit Amongst the records of the Term of Easter Roll on the part of the Treasurer's Remembrancer.

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin on plain parchment,  $25\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and  $15\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep. Spaces are left in the first line for

the insertion of the capital letters, which have not, however, been executed. A fragment of the great seal of England in brown wax still remains attached.

On the back is written:—

"30<sup>th</sup> Marcij j<sup>o</sup> Rici 3<sup>rd</sup>

"Grant whereby Rich<sup>d</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> remits to the Corporation of  
"Northton and their Successors for ever 50 marks parcel of  
"their annual ffee farm Rent of 120<sup>l</sup>"

"17"

## Exemplification of Act of Parliament.

4TH HENRY VII.

1489.

BY this Act of Parliament the mayor for the time being and the past mayors were authorised to choose 48 of the most wise, discrete, and best disposed inhabitants of the town. And these 48, with the mayor and bailiffs were each year to choose the new mayor.

Item quedam alia Billam formam  
Actus simili in se continens  
porrecta fuit Dao Regi in Parlia-  
mento pdcō ex parte Inhabitancin  
Ville Norhmp que in se seriem  
v<sup>o</sup>z sequencium continebat:—

Item another bill in the form  
of a similar act was passed in  
the aforesaid Parliament of our  
lord the King on the part of  
the inhabitants of the town of  
Northampton which is contained  
in the following words:—

Forasmuche as of late greate divisions discencions and discordes  
have growen and been had as well in the Townes and Boroughes  
of Norhampton & Leycestre as in other dyv<sup>s</sup> Townes & Bourghs  
Corporat within this Realme of England amongst the Inhabantez  
of the same for the eleccion and choyse of Maires Bailles and  
other officers within the same by reason that such multytude of  
the seid Inhabantez beyng of lytill substaunce and haveour and  
of no sadnes discrecion wisdome ne reason which oft in nombre

exced in theire Assemblies other that been approved discrete  
sadde and well disposed psones have by their multitude and by  
their bandis confederacys exclamacions and hedynesse used in the  
seid Assemblies caused great hables divisions and discordes among  
theym selfe as well in the seid eleccions as in assessyng of  
other lawfull charges and imposicions amongst theym to the subv<sup>c</sup>ion  
of ye gode rule gov<sup>n</sup>aunce and old politik demenyng of the seid  
Burghes and oft tymes to the greate brech of the Kyngs Peace  
within the same to the fere drede and manyfolde pills that  
therby may ensue For reformacion whereof and for the more  
quiete and restfulness of the Kyngs Subgett<sup>s</sup> hereafter and  
for the conservacion of the Kyngs Pease more surely to be  
observed and kept Be yt Ordeyned enacted and stablished by  
thadvyse and assent of the Lordes spual and tempall and comens  
in this p<sup>s</sup>ent Parliament assembled and by anctorite of the same  
that from hensfourth the eleccions of Maires Bailliffs and other  
officers and also the assessyng of all lawfull charges and im-  
posicions that herafter shalbe made and had in the Burgh of  
No<sup>r</sup>hampton shall be had made and used after the fourme  
solowyng that is to sey the Maire of the Town of Norhampton  
and his brethern for the tyme beyng that then ostymys past have  
ben Mares of the same or the more part of theym upon their  
othes shall do name and chose xlviij psones of the most wise  
discrete and best disposed psones Inhitaunt<sup>s</sup> within the seid  
Towne by theire discrecions other then afore that tyme have ben  
Maires and Baillies of the same And the same psones pt of  
theym from tyme to tyme herafter to chaunge when and as oft  
as they shall seme most necessarie and behoufull Which psones  
so by theym chosen and named and the seid Maire and his  
brothern and such parsones as then have been Mayres and  
Bailles of the seid town for the tyme beyng or the more parte of  
theym shall have and make yerly eleccion of all the Maires  
and Bailles that hereafter shall be Maires and Baileffs of the seid  
Bourgh and Towne And the eleccion by theym or the more part  
of them so made to stand and be goode and effectuell in the  
Lawe yerly herafter for ev<sup>g</sup> to endure in like man<sup>g</sup> fourme and  
condicion as yf the eleccions werde made by such wey man<sup>g</sup>  
and fourme as aforetyme hath ben used and accustumed in of  
and for the same eleccions in the seid Bourgh and Towne  
And ov<sup>g</sup> this that all other officers of the seid Towne that by

the dutie of their offices owe to be attendant in the Courtes of the same Bourgh and Towne or upon the Maire and Maires and Baillyffes that nowe be or that herafter in the said Borough shall be to be electe chosen and made only by the seid Maire and his brethern for the tyme beyng that afore that in tymes past have been Maires of the seid Bourgh and Towne or the more parte of them without assent assemble of any other psones Inhabitauntes of in or for the same Provided alway that if in the seid eleccions or eny of them the voises be divided and eqall for sendry ptis Then the voice of the Maire for the tym beyng to stond and be reputed for ij voises in the same eleccion And yf eny eleccion or eleccions herafter happ to be made of Maire or Maires Bailes or other officers of the seid Towne in otherwise then by this Acte afore ys reherced Then that eleccion or eleccions to be taken voide and of no strength ne effecte And over thi; be it ordeyned by the said Auctorite that yf eny of the Inhabitauntes nowe beyng or that herafter shalbe inhabited in the seid Bourgh and Towne attempt or do to the breche impedyment or lette of this psent Acte That then the seid psone or psones to forfeit the some of x<sup>l</sup> the moyte thereof to be to the Kyng and the other moyte to be to the Maire of the seid Towne for the tyme beyng to employe to the charges of the seid Towne And that yt shall be leeful to the Maire of the seid Bourgh and Towne for the tyme beyng to comynte ev'y such psone or psones to prison within the same Town and Bourgh their to remayn without Baille or Maynpise tyll the seid some or somes of money be fully levyed and paied

Pui quidem Bille pleete & Then the same bill being intellecte p Dmū Regem auctoritate & assensu pdcis ut sequit' read and passed by the King by the authority and consent respondebat' aforesaid received the following reply

Le Roy le vuelt

The King wills it

This document is not with the muniments of the borough, the preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Rot: Parl: 4<sup>o</sup> Hen: VII., n.*

## Charter of 11th Henry VII.

22ND DECEMBER, 1495.

BY this charter the King granted the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses leave to elect a discreet man and learned in the law as recorder of the town, and two others as justices of the peace, who should have power to hear and determine felonies and misdeeds; that writs and warrants should be directed to, and executed by them; that they should have all fines; and lastly, that they should have two fairs every year each of which was to continue for eight days.

### *Translation.*

HENRY by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland To all and singular Archbishops Bishops Abbots Priors Dukes Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Mayors Bailiffs Reeves Constables and other our officers ministers faithful liege men and subjects whomsoever as well within liberties as without to whom these present letters shall come Greeting KNOW ye that we of our special grace at the humble supplication of our beloved and faithful subjects the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of our town or borough of Northampton in relief and succour of the same town and the poor inhabitants of the same of our mere motion and certain knowledge have granted and for us and our heirs as much as in us lies by these presents grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of our aforesaid town of Northampton and their successors that the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgessess and their successors the future Mayors Bailiffs and Burgesses of the same town every year henceforth for ever on the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel may elect and prefer a discreet man and learned in the law as Recorder of the town aforesaid and two others of their more honest circumspect and more learned co-burgesses who being so elected and from year to year or from time to time as need shall be to be

elected together with the aforesaid Mayor for the time being be and be made for ever Justices and keepers of the peace of us and our heirs within our town aforesaid the suburbs precincts and fields of the same so that the same Mayor Recorder and two Burgesses three and two of them of whom the aforesaid Recorder always be one may have full power and authority to keep and cause to be kept the peace of us and our heirs and also the statute and ordinances there and at Cambridge of hunters workmen artificers servants hostellers beggars and vagabonds and other mendicant men who call themselves travelling men and likewise the statutes and ordinances at Westminster in the first and second years of the reign of Henry the fourth late King of England for not giving liveries of signs of companies to knights esquires or valets and other liveries of clothes nor in anywise howsoever using the same liveries And also a certain statute passed against Lollards in the Parliament of the Lord Henry the fifth late King of England at Leicester And also a certain other statute likewise passed in the Parliament of the same Henry the fifth at Westminster of counterfeiting clipping washing and other falsifying of the money of our land And also all other ordinances and statutes made and to be made for the good of the peace of us and our heirs and the quiet rule and government of the people of us and our heirs in all and singular their articles within the town liberty and precinct of the same according to the force form and effect of the same and to cause all those who shall act against the form of the same ordinances and statutes and all those who shall threaten any of the people of us or our heirs of their bodies or with firing of their houses to come before them to find sufficient security for the peace and their good conduct towards us and the people of us and our heirs and if they refuse to find such security then to cause them safely to be kept in the prison of us and our heirs within the town aforesaid until they shall find such security And further that they three or two of them of whom the aforesaid Recorder we will to be one be the Justices of us and our heirs to enquire by the oath of good and lawful men of the town liberty and precinct aforesaid by whom the truth of the matter may be the better known of all and all manner of felonies trespasses forestallings regratings and extortions within the town aforesaid the liberty and precinct aforesaid by whomsoever and in

anywise howsoever made or committed and which henceforth shall happen to be done there And also of all other and singular things within the town liberty and precinct aforesaid in anywise howsoever done attempted or perpetrated and which henceforth shall happen to be there done attempted or perpetrated and may have full authority and power to enquire hear and determine all and all manner of felonies trespasses and other misdeeds whatsoever and all matters plaints defects causes and other things whatsoever within the said town liberty and precinct of the same town heretofore or hereafter committed or happening as fully and entirely as the keepers of the peace of us and our heirs or the justices of us or our heirs to keep the peace in any county of England and also to hear and determine divers felonies trespasses and other misdeeds committed in any county of England assigned or to be assigned concerning such felonies trespasses and misdeeds and other the premises in any county of our kingdom of England by virtue of the ordinances and statutes aforesaid or of any ordinances and statutes heretofore made or to be made according to the force form and effect of the letters of us and our heirs to them thereof made and to be made ought and hath been accustomed to be enquired of and to hear and determine all and singular the premises and other things whatsoever within the town liberty and precinct aforesaid made attempted or perpetrated or henceforth to be made attempted or perpetrated which by such Justices or keepers of the peace of us and our heirs and such Justices of us and our heirs to hear and determine such felonies trespasses and misdeeds in any county aforesaid by virtue of the ordinances and statutes aforesaid and our letters aforesaid ought and are accustomed to be discussed and determined may be heard and determined by the same Mayor Recorder and two Burgesses so to be chosen and nominated three or two of them of whom the said Recorder for the time being we will to be one according to the law and custom of our kingdom of England

and the form of the ordinances and statutes aforesaid

NOTA.  
SO THAT all the writs precepts and other warrants  
to be made for the premises and every of them  
be directed to the Ministers of the town aforesaid  
and by them be executed without any writ precept  
or warrant of the Sheriffs or Coroners within the county of North-  
ampton thereof in anywise howsoever to be directed So also that

the keepers of the peace of us and our heirs and such Justices of us and our heirs assigned and to be assigned to hear and determine such felonies trespasses and misdeeds done or perpetrated or to be done or perpetrated in the county of Northampton aforesaid or either of them do not enter within the town liberty or precinct aforesaid to do anything which to keepers of the peace or such Justices there pertain to be done nor that they nor either of them thereof in anything intromit themselves nor either of them intromit himself in anywise howsoever **MOREOVER WE WILL** and of our grace aforesaid and of our certain knowledge and mere motion aforesaid grant for us and our heirs aforesaid to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors that they for ever may have all and singular fines issues redempions and amerciaments lost and forfeited and to be lost and forfeited before the aforesaid keepers of the peace of us and our heirs and the Justices of us and our heirs assigned to hear and determine felonies trespasses and misdeeds aforesaid within the town liberty and precinct aforesaid in anywise howsoever forfeited or to be forfeited **AND FURTHER** of our more abundant grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion we have granted and by this our present charter confirmed for us and our heirs to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses that they and their successors for ever may have two fairs or marts within the town aforesaid every year severally in manner and form following to be holden to wit that the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may have and hold one fair or mart of the said two fairs or marts at the said town of Northampton every year for ever on the feast of Saint George the Martyr [April 23rd] and on the day next preceding the same feast and also to continue by six days next immediately following such feast And the other fair of the aforesaid two fairs on the feast of Saint Hugh the Bishop [November 17th] and on the day next preceding the same feast and likewise to continue by six days next following the same feast with all liberties and free customs to such fairs or marts appertaining or belonging Provided the same fairs or marts be not to the nuisance of other neighbouring fairs or marts **WHEREFORE WE WILL** and firmly command for us and our heirs that the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors for ever have and hold the fairs or marts aforesaid at the aforesaid town of Northampton as is aforesaid to continue

every year for ever with all liberties and free customs to such fairs or marts or either of them appertaining provided the same fairs or marts be not to the nuisance of neighbouring fairs or marts as is aforesaid Moreover of our special grace we grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town aforesaid that they and their successors may have and hold enjoy and use all and singular such liberties and other franchises privileges customs rights things profits and emoluments with their appurtenances whatsoever as the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses or either of their predecessors by whatsoever names they were known have had and before the date of these presents have been used to have and as they or either of them heretofore by reason of any gift or grant to them made by any of our progenitors or ancestors Kings of England or otherwise had and used or from time whereof the memory of man is not were accustomed to have although the same Mayor Bailiffs or Burgesses or their predecessors have been accustomed to abuse the same liberties franchises customs rights things profits and emoluments or either of them or have not used the same or either of them THESE BEING WITNESSES our most dear eldest son Arthur Prince of Wales Duke of Cornwall and Earl of Chester<sup>156</sup> The Most Reverend Fathers J the Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury<sup>157</sup> our Chancellor of England and Thomas Archbishop of York<sup>158</sup> The Venerable Fathers in Christ R Bishop of Durham<sup>159</sup> Keeper of our Privy Seal and O Bishop of

<sup>156</sup> Arthur Tudor, son of King Henry VII., was born 20th September, 1486, and at once created Duke of Cornwall. He was created Earl of Chester and Prince of Wales, 1st December, 1489. The young Prince married Katherine of Aragon on the 14th November, 1501. He died the following April.

<sup>157</sup> John Morton, the Clerk of the Rolls, became Bishop of Ely in 1478, and was translated to Canterbury in 1486. He died in 1500, and was buried in Canterbury Cathedral. "He spoke both gracefully and mightily; he was eminently skilled in the law; he had a comprehensive understanding, and a very retentive memory; and the excellent talents with which nature had furnished him were improved by study and discipline."

<sup>158</sup> Thomas Scott, or Rotherham, became Bishop of Rochester in 1468; in 1471 he was translated to Lincoln, and in 1480 to York. He died in 1501, at Cawood, Yorkshire, and was buried in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral.

<sup>159</sup> Richard Fox became Bishop of Exeter in 1487, of Bath and Wells in 1491, of Durham in 1494, and of Winchester in 1500. He founded Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Bishop Fox died in 1529, and was buried in his own chantry in Winchester Cathedral.

Exeter<sup>160</sup> and our most dear second son Henry Duke of York<sup>161</sup> and our most dear cousin Edward Duke of Buckingham<sup>162</sup> and also our most dear cousins John Earl of Oxford<sup>163</sup> Great Chamberlain of England Henry Earl of Northumberland<sup>164</sup> and Thomas Earl of Derby<sup>165</sup> Constable of England and also our beloved and faithful Sir John Dynham of Dynham Knight our Treasurer of England Robert Willoughby of Broke Steward of our Household and Sir Giles of Daubeney Knight Chamberlain of our Household and others GIVEN by our hand at Westminster the twenty second day of December in the eleventh year of our Reign

By the King himself and of the date aforesaid  
by authority of Parliament

Clerk

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment, 31 inches wide and 18 inches deep. Spaces have, as usual, been left in the first line for capital letters, which have not been filled in. Almost the whole of the great seal of England remains attached to the silk and silver gilt twisted cord.

On the back is written:—

"22<sup>o</sup> Decembris 11<sup>o</sup> Hen. 7<sup>m</sup>

<sup>160</sup> Oliver King, chaplain to King Henry VII., and Dean of Windsor, became Bishop of Exeter in 1492, and was translated to Bath and Wells in 1495. He restored, or rather rebuilt Bath Church. Bishop King died in 1503, and was probably buried at Windsor.

<sup>161</sup> Henry Tudor, the second son of King Henry VII., was born 28th June, 1491; created Duke of York in 1494. On the death of his brother Arthur, in 1502, he succeeded to the title of Duke of Cornwall. Next year he was created Earl of Chester and Prince of Wales, and on the 22nd April, 1509, he succeeded as King Henry VIII. In 1501 he was said to be "A goodly younge prince."

<sup>162</sup> Edward Stafford, son of the second Duke of Buckingham, was born in 1478, and was restored Duke of Buckingham in 1486. He was styled Earl of Stafford, Buckingham, Hereford, Essex, and Northampton. He was beheaded 17th May, 1521.

<sup>163</sup> John de Vere, the second son of the twelfth Earl of Oxford, was born in 1443, and succeeded as Earl in 1462. He was "valentissimus miles," attainted in October, 1474, and afterwards restored to all his honours. He died in March, 1513.

<sup>164</sup> Henry Algernon Percy was born in 1478, and succeeded as fifth Earl of Northumberland in 1489. He was judge of the lists at the Field of the Cloth of Gold (10th—23rd June, 1520). He died in 1527.

<sup>165</sup> Thomas Stanley, the son of Thomas, Lord Stanley, was born in 1435, and created Earl of Derby in 1485. He dressed "in a rich gowne, furred with sables, a marveolous riche cheyne of guld many fowldes abowte his necke." He died in 1504.

" The Charter of Hen. 7<sup>th</sup> for choosing yearly for ever at the  
 "feast of S<sup>t</sup>. Michael a Recorder of Northton and 2 Burgeses  
 "who with the Mayor for the time being are appointed Justices  
 "of the pearce of the s<sup>t</sup> Town for ever and they 3 or 2 of them  
 "(of which the Recorder is always to be one) have power to  
 "enquire into hear and determine all felonys Trespailes &c.  
 "comitted within the Libertys . Herein also is a Grant to the  
 "Corporation & their success for ever of all fines Issues &c.  
 "forfeited before the s<sup>t</sup> Justices & also a Grant of 2 stais  
 "yearly for ever (vitz) on the feasts of S<sup>t</sup>. George the Martyr  
 "& St. Hugh the Bp: & on the day next before & for 6 days  
 "next after each of the said feasts."

"18"

## Letters Patent of 11th Henry VII.

11TH FEBRUARY, 1496.

THESE letters patent, which are in the nature of an inspeximus charter, inspect and confirm the charters of 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., 8th Richard II., the letters patent of 30th Henry VI., the charter of 38th Henry VI., and the letters patent of 2nd Edward IV.

### *Translation.*

[H]enry by the grace of God [K]ing of [E]ngland and [F]rance and [L]ord of [I]reland [T]o all to whom these present letters shall come Greeting [W]e have inspected the letters patent of the Lord Edward the fourth of noble memory late King of England made in these words Edward by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original letters patent of 2nd Edward IV., 10th July, 1462, printed before at page 92] Now we the charters and letters aforesaid and all and singular the things therein contained ratifying and approving the same for us and our heirs as much as in us is do accept and approve and to our beloved the now Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the aforesaid

town and their successors ratify and confirm in manner as in the charters and letters do more reasonably testify In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Westminster the 11th day of February in the 11th year of our reign

Exd. by { William Elyot & } Clerks  
Gilbert Batcheler }

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin on a plain skin of parchment, 36 inches wide and 22 inches deep. Spaces have been left in the first line for the initial letters, which have not been completed. The green and white cord, interwoven with silver gilt wire remains, but the seal has been lost.

On the back is written:—

" 11 . feb . 11 . Henry 7<sup>th</sup>.

" A Grant for confirming to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses " of the Town of Northampton several former Grants within " recited made to them from the Crown and (amongst others) " that of the 16<sup>th</sup> March 21<sup>st</sup> Hen: 3<sup>rd</sup> for exempting them from " the Payment of Toll and Lastage throughout all England & " the Sea Ports "

" 19 "

## Letters Patent of 2nd Henry VIII.

14TH FEBRUARY, 1511.

THESE letters patent, which are also of the nature of an inspeximus charter, inspect and confirm the charters of 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., 8th Richard II., the letters patent of 30th Henry VI., the charter of 38th Henry VI., the letters patent of 2nd and 18th Edward IV., and the charter and letters patent of 11th Henry VII.

*Translation.*

Concerning Confirmations for the Burgesses of Northampton.

The King to all to whom &c Greeting We have inspected the letters patent of the Lord Henry the seventh of illustrious

memory late King our father made in these words Henry by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original letters patent of 11th Henry VII., 11th February, 1496, printed before at page 110] We have also inspected the letters patent of the Lord Edward the fourth our progenitor late King of England made in these words Edward by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original letters patent of the 18th Edward IV., 2nd May 1478, printed before at page 93] We have moreover inspected a charter of the aforesaid Lord Henry the seventh of illustrious memory late King of England our father made in these words Henry by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 11th Henry VII., 22nd December, 1495, printed before at page 104] Now we the charters and letters aforesaid and all and singular the things therein contained ratifying and approving the same for us and our heirs as much as in us is do accept and approve and to our beloved the present Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the aforesaid town and their successors ratify grant and confirm as the charters and letters aforesaid reasonably testify In testimony whereof &c. Witness the King at Westminster the xiiiij day of February

. For ten marks [i.e. £6. 13s. 4d.] paid into the Hanaper

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Undecima pars Confirm 2<sup>do</sup> Hen. VIII.*

## Letters Patent of 5th Henry VIII.

19TH MARCH, 1514.

BY these letters patent the King remitted for ever the sum of £22, part of the farm of the town of Northampton, together with all arrears then due and owing.

### *Translation.*

[H]enry by the grace of God King of [E]ngland and [F]rance and Lord of [I]reland To all to whom the present letters shall come Greeting Whereas the Mayor Bailiffs Men Burgesses and Commonalty of our town of Northampton in our county of Northampton are charged towards us yearly in our Exchequer in the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds for the fee farm of the same town as well by the name of the men of our town aforesaid as by the name of the Burgesses of our town aforesaid Know ye that we of our special grace and certain considerations us especially moving and of our certain knowledge and mere motion have pardoned remised and released and by these presents for us and our heirs and successors do pardon remise and release for ever to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs Men Burgesses and Commonalty of our town of Northampton in the county aforesaid and every of them their heirs and successors for ever or by whatsoever other name they are or were called or deemed incorporated twenty two pounds parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and twenty pounds yearly of fee farm for the town aforesaid of which the same Mayor Bailiffs Men Burgesses and Commonalty of the said town or some of them is or are charged towards us yearly in our Exchequer aforesaid of record by the name of the Burgesses or Men of our town aforesaid or any other name whatsoever for the fee farm aforesaid And moreover of our more abundant grace we grant by these presents to the same

Mayor Bailiffs Men Burgesses and Commonalty of our town aforesaid and their heirs and successors that they of the aforesaid twenty two pounds parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and twenty pounds of the fee farm aforesaid yearly from the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel in the twenty fourth year of the reign of the Lord Henry the seventh late King of England our father hitherto issuing growing due and unpaid towards us our heirs and successors be quit and altogether discharged And further we pardon remise and release all and singular the arrears of the same twenty two pounds parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and twenty pounds for the fee farm aforesaid now being behind to the same Mayor Bailiffs Men Burgesses and Commonalty of the town aforesaid and all and singular the same arrears we give and grant to them by these presents To hold to them of our gift as well to be retained in their own hands or to be received by the hands of the Sheriffs Escheators Receivers Bailiffs or other our officers and ministers whomsoever without the impeachment molestation interruption disturbance or grievance of us our heirs or successors Justices Barons of our Exchequer Sheriffs Escheators Receivers or other the officers or ministers whomsoever of us our heirs or successors or either of them and without any account answer or reason or any other thing to us our heirs and successors aforesaid or either of them for the aforesaid twenty two pounds or any part thereof or for the arrears of the same in any wise hereafter to be rendered paid or done although express mention of the true yearly value of the premises or any of them or of other gifts or grants to the same Mayor Bailliffs and Burgesses and to the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses Men and Commonalty and their successors or either of them or to any of their predecessors heretofore made by us or by any of our progenitors or predecessors late Kings of England be not made in these presents or any statute act or ordinance to the contrary thereof made passed or ordained or any other thing cause or matter whatsoever in any wise notwithstanding In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Westminster the nineteenth day of March in the fifth year of our reign

By writ of privy seal and of the date aforesaid  
by authority of Parliament

Yong

*Indorsed.*

Inrolled with memoranda of the exchequer of the sixth year of the reign of King Henry the eighth to wit amongst the records of the term of Easter beginning the said sixth year Roll 4 on the part of the Treasurer's Remembrancer.

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This pardon of the fee farm of the town of Northampton was prosecuted and obtained by William Alward John Janes otherwise called John Bukby late Bailiffs of the town aforesaid and other inhabitants of the same and was allowed upon the account of the said late Bailiffs in the term of Easter in the sixth year of King Henry the 8th.

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin, on plain parchment, 30 inches wide and 12 inches deep. Spaces have been left in the first line for the initial letters, which have not, however, been filled in. The cord worked through the lower edge is composed of green and white silk, twisted with silver gilt wire. The seal has been lost.

On the back is written:—

" 19<sup>o</sup> Marcij 5<sup>o</sup> Hen. 8<sup>o</sup>

" Grant whereby Henry the Eighth remits to the Corporation of Northampton and their Successors for ever 22<sup>o</sup> part of their "annual ffee ffarm Rent of 120<sup>o</sup>"

" 20 "

" pdon Henrici viij p xxij"

## Letters Patent of 1st Edward VI.

27TH OCTOBER, 1541.

THESE letters patent also, simply inspect and confirm the charters of 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., 8th Richard II., the letters patent of 30th Henry VI., the charter of 38th Henry VI., the letters patent of 2nd and 18th Edward IV., the charter and letters patent of 11th Henry VII., and the letters patent of 2nd Henry VIII.

### *Translation.*



EDWARD THE SIXTH BY THE  
GRACE OF GOD OF ENGLAND  
FRANCE AND IRELAND King  
Defender of the Faith and the  
supreme head of the church in  
England and Ireland TO ALL  
to whom these present letters  
shall come Greeting WE HAVE

INSPECTED the letters patent of Henry  
the eighth formerly King of England  
our dearest father made in these words  
Henry by the grace of God [and so forth,  
repeating the whole of the original let-  
ters patent of 2nd Henry VIII., 14th  
February, 1511, printed before at page 111.]

NOW WE the charters and letters aforesaid and all and  
singular the things therein contained ratifying and granting the  
same for us and our heirs so much as in us is do accept and  
approve and to our beloved the now Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses  
of the town aforesaid and their successors ratify grant and con-  
firm as in the charters and letters aforesaid do more reasonably  
testify IN TESTIMONY whereof we have caused these our letters  
to be made patent WITNESS myself at Westminster the 27th  
day of October in the first year of our reign

For seven pounds paid into the Hanplo  
Exd pp me Wm Ermysted  
Georgm Throkmarston

The initial E is a reproduction of that on the charter.

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin on two skins of parchment, 37 inches wide and 22 inches deep.

The first line is highly ornamented. The initial E encloses a portrait of the infant king, clothed with an ermine lined robe, and seated on his throne, above which is written VIVAT. REX. The King is crowned, and holds in his right hand the sceptre, and in his left the orb, but he does not wear the insignia of the garter. The other initial letters are beautifully drawn and ornamented. Over the line are the following heraldic devices:—A shield bearing a Saint George's cross, within the garter, on which is written, "Hony soyt qvy mal y pense." A double rose surmounted by a crown; a lion sejant guardant, bearing a banner, on which is a fleur de lys, on the dexter; and a dragon sejant, bearing a banner, on which is also a Saint George's cross, on the sinister side. A fleur de lys, without crown. And a portcullis, also without crown. The inner skin is unornamented. The green and white silk cord still remains, but the seal is missing.

On the back is written:—

"21"

"Edward. 6."

## Letters Patent of 1st & 2nd Philip & Mary.

15TH OCTOBER, 1554.

THESE letters patent, again inspect and confirm the charters of 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., 8th Richard II., the letters patent of 30th Henry VI., the charter of 38th Henry VI., the letters patent of the 2nd and 18th Edward IV., the charter and letters patent of 11th Henry VII., and the letters patent of 2nd Henry VIII., and 1st Edward VI.

*Translation.*

HILIP AND MARY by the grace of  
God King and Queen of England  
France Naples Jerusalem and  
Ireland Defenders of the Faith  
Principals of Spain and Sicily  
Archdukes of Austria Dukes of  
Milan Burgundy and Brabant  
Counts of Hasberg Flanders and  
Tirol TO ALL to whom these  
present letters shall come Greeting  
WE HAVE INSPECTED the letters  
patent of confirmation of the  
Lord Edward the sixth sometime

King of England our dearest brother in these words  
Edward the sixth by the grace of God [and so forth,  
repeating the whole of the original charter of 1st  
Edward VI., 27th October, 1541, printed before at  
page 116] NOW WE the charters and letters aforesaid and all and  
singular the things therein contained grant and ratisfy so far as in  
us lies for us and our heirs to be held by our beloved the Mayor  
Bailiffs and Burgesses of the said town of Northampton and their  
successors as the charters and letters aforesaid do more reasonably  
testify IN TESTIMONY whereof we have caused these our letters  
to be made patent WITNESS ourselves at Westminster the fifteenth  
day of October in the first and second years of our reign.

Le Hare

Examined by us	Richard Rede	}
	and	

James Dangson

St. Winton.<sup>156</sup>

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the  
borough, are written in Latin on two skins of parchment, 33  
inches wide and 21 inches deep.

The initial P is a reproduction of that on the charter.

<sup>156</sup> The signature of the famous Stephen Gardiner, who was appointed Bishop of Winchester in 1531, kept a prisoner in the Tower during the reign of King Edward VI., and restored by Queen Mary in 1553, and appointed Chancellor the same year. He died in 1555.

The first line is highly ornamented, it bears a striking resemblance in style to the letters patent of 1st Edward VI., and is probably by the same penman. Within the initial P is a full length representation of the King seated on his throne, wearing an open crown, and clad in robe with ermine tippet, bearing in his right hand the sceptre, and in his left the orb; above the throne is written VIVAT.REX. Within the initial M is a half length representation of the Queen, wearing an arched crown; above the throne is written VIVAT.REGINA. The other initial letters are also beautifully drawn and ornamented. Over the first line are the following heraldic devices:—A triple rose crowned. The lion and dragon both sejant, each bearing a banneret, on which is the fleur de lys. The rose and pomegranate used by Katherine of Aragon, uncrowned. And a fleur de lys, also uncrowned. The second skin is plain.

Part of the great seal of England, as used by Queen Mary, remains attached to the green and white silk cord.

On the back of this document is written only:—

"22"

## Letters Patent of 41st Elizabeth.

3RD APRIL, 1599.

IT was not long before a new charter was required by the corporation. In 1595 the assembly agreed that there "shalbe suite made forthwith for the renewing and enlarging of the Charter and liberties of this borrough that ys to saye that the Maior for the tyme being maye be Justice of Quorum within the same towne and liberties thereof. And the Bayliffes for the tyme being maye levye and take tole and custome of all manner of cattell bought or solde within the same towne; And that also the Maior Bayliffes and Burgesses maye have and injoye suche other liberties and priviledges graunted them as heretofore they have sued for; and that the charges in this suite shalbe born out and defrayed by the town echamber from tyme to tyme everie kynde of waye."

On the 5th January, 1598-9, it was notified to the assembly that a sum of eighty pounds was needed to pay for the procuring and bringing down of the new charter. It was thereupon proposed and carried that the money should be raised by selling in advance the hay crops of the West Holmes and Abbots Meadow (part of the lordship of Duston) for the next two years.

These letters patent were therefore granted by the Queen. They do not inspect and confirm the previous grants, but are drawn on new and more extended lines.

The Queen granted that Northampton should be a free and corporate town, ruled by mayor, two bailiffs and company of eight and forty, and a recorder. That the mayor bailiffs and burgesses should have the custody of the orphans of burgesses. And that they should have seven fairs during the year, and a market three times during the week.

This grant being very lengthy and verbose is here only shortly abstracted.

*Abbreviated Translation.*

Of a Grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton and their successors for ever.

THE QUEEN TO ALL to whom &c GREETING WHEREAS Northampton is a very ancient and populous town and from ancient times was incorporate and the inhabitants have enjoyed privileges the grants of former Kings which have been made to them by various names some as the Burgesses of Northampton some as the Mayor and Commonalty and some as the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses AND WHEREAS our beloved subjects the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses have besought us to show them grace and by letters patent to confirm the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and to add further liberties WE therefore graciously desiring the amelioration of the town and that it should be a town of peace to the dread and terror of the evil and the reward of the good grant that Northampton shall be a free town of itself and that the Burgesses shall be one body corporate by the name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton

and that they shall be persons fit and in the law capable to have and possess lands and tenements hereditaments and franchises and also goods and chattels And also to give demise and grant the same AND to plead and be impleaded answer and be answered in any courts in all plaints and pleas AND to have a common seal and break the same and have a new one AND WE grant that three of the more honest and discreet Burgessess shall be elected as Mayor and Bailiffs of the town AND that there shall be forty eight good and discreet men dwelling in the town who have never been Mayor nor Bailiffs who shall be called the Company of Eight and forty AND that the two Bailiffs and such other Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs together with the Company of Eight and forty shall be called the Common Council of the town and shall assist and aid the Mayor in all things touching the town AND further that the Mayor Bailiffs and such Burgesses of the town with the Company of Eight and forty shall have power to frame such laws as to them seem good and wholesome for the conduct of the Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses and artificers of the town and for the rule and victualling of the town And for levying money for the government of the lands and tenements of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses AND that they may impose and assess reasonable pains and penalties imprisonment of body or amerciaments as to them shall seem reasonable AND shall levy the same to the use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses Which laws we will to be observed so nevertheless that the same are not repugnant to the laws or statutes of the kingdom of England AND for the better execution of these grants we assign and nominate our beloved Thomas Humfrey<sup>167</sup> the now Mayor to be the first and present Mayor AND that he shall continue in the office of Mayor from the date of this charter until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel and until another Burgess shall be appointed and sworn to the office provided he so long live AND we assign and constitute our beloved Thomas Bradford<sup>168</sup> and Francis Fisher<sup>169</sup> the then

<sup>167</sup> Thomas Humfrey was Mayor of the town in 1587-8, when there was a great flood, which reached almost to St. John's Hospital, "so that all the south quarter, both men, women, and children, were constrained to be brought up into the town on horseback. It drove away many houses and much household stuff." Thomas Humfrey was Mayor again in 1598-9.

<sup>168</sup> Thomas Bradford was afterwards Mayor of the town in 1610-1, and Francis Fisher in 1608-9.

Bailiffs to be the first and present Bailiffs AND that they shall continue in the office of Bailiffs until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel or until two other Burgesses shall be appointed provided they so long live AND WE grant that the Mayor for the time being and other Burgesses who have been Mayors shall nominate and elect such Burgesses as shall seem to them necessary to be the forty eight Burgesses commonly called the Company of Eight and forty who shall continue for their natural lives unless amoved according to the custom of the town AND WE grant that the Mayor and Bailiffs of the town for the time being and such Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs or the greater part of them shall have power within four days next after the first day of September called the feast of Saint Giles to assemble in the Guildhall or some other convenient place in the town and there to continue until they have in accordance with the statute passed in the 4th Henry VII. [hereinbefore printed at page 101] elected and nominated one Burgess to be the Mayor for the year following who before he shall be admitted to execute the same office shall take his oath "upon the Holy Evangelists of God yearly on the "Utas<sup>109</sup> of the said feast of Saint Michael the Archangel" before the last Mayor or the Recorder according to ancient custom to faithfully execute the same office until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next following or until another Burgess should be appointed AND WE further grant that the Mayor and Bailiffs and such Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Eight and forty shall have power to assemble themselves in the same manner as before mentioned and elect two of the Company of Eight and forty to be Bailiffs for one year following the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel who shall take a similar oath before the Mayor or Recorder AND WE further grant that if it shall happen that the Mayor shall die or from his office be amoved it shall be lawful for the Bailiffs the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Eight and forty to elect another Burgess in his place and that they shall be able in a similar manner to elect Bailiffs in the place of any dying or being amoved and that they shall be able in a similar manner to elect Burgesses in the place of any of the Company of Eight and

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<sup>109</sup> The Utas was the seventh day after the feast, or the eighth if the day of the feast be included.

forty dying or being amoved as aforesaid AND WE further grant that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may "have for ever one honest and discreet man learned in the laws of this Kingdom of England" to be the Recorder of the town AND WE nominate our beloved Christopher Yelverton<sup>170</sup> our Sergeant at law to be the first and present Recorder of the town to continue until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next following if he so long live and after his death or amoal the Mayor Bailiffs and greater part of the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Eight and forty may nominate another from time to time as Recorder who shall also take an oath AND WE further grant that the Mayor and Burgesses or the greater part of them shall have license to nominate such Bailiffs and other officers for the good service of the town as they shall think necessary AND WE grant that the Mayor and Recorder the Burgess who has been last Mayor and one other circumspect Burgess whom the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses who have been Mayors and Bailiffs or the greater part of them shall choose to be the Justices to keep the peace in the town and the statutes of artificers and weights and measures and that they or any two of them (of whom the Mayor or Recorder is to be one) shall hear and determine all trespasses or other things which to the office of Justice of the Peace belong as amply as other Justices of the Peace in any other city can do PROVIDED the Mayor Recorder or the two Burgesses shall not determine any murther felony or other matter touching the loss of life or member within the town without our special mandate AND WE further grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses "all those lands tenements and hereditaments whatsoever commonly called or named the chamber lands" lying near the town of Northampton which they have hitherto held to hold the same to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses for ever rendering therefore yearly to the Queen such and the like rents and services which have heretofore been paid or rendered for the same AND WE desiring to provide for the safety

<sup>170</sup> Christopher Yelverton purchased the Manor of Easton Mauduit in 1579. He was one of the representatives of the county at the Parliaments held at Westminster in the 13th and 39th Elizabeth. He was also Sergeant-at-Law, Speaker of the House of Commons, and a Judge of the Queen's Bench. Christopher Yelverton married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Catesby, of Ecton, by whom he had issue Henry, of whom more hereafter, who succeeded to the Manor of Easton Mauduit on his father's death in 1613.

of orphans and infants who shall happen to be in the town and that their goods shall be faithfully kept during their minority Grant that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses shall have the custody of the orphans of any Burgesses and shall collect and cause to be kept in the common treasury by the Chamberlain all goods and chattels belonging to the said orphans and deliver the same with increase to them in the same manner as is done in the city of London With all rights of actions on account of the same AND WE further grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses all manors tenements tolls customs franchises and jurisdictions which they hold use or enjoy by virtue of any charters or customs rendering for the same to us such rents and services as they have been accustomed to pay or render without let or hindrance by us or our Justices Sheriffs or Escheator AND WHEREAS we being credibly informed that the Mayor of the town "from time whereof the memory of man is not" has been accustomed to receive recognisances according to the form of the statute merchant and the statute of Acton Burnell GRANT that the Mayor shall have authority to receive such recognisances and we constitute our beloved George Goldwell the present common Clerk of the town commonly called the Town Clerk to be the first and present Clerk and to receive and write such recognisances to continue from the date of this charter to the next feast of Saint Michael the Archangel "if he shall so long live and well conduct himself" and until another fit person shall be sworn in AND that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses shall according to custom yearly within four days next following the feast of Saint Giles elect a fit person to be common Clerk or Prothonotary to write such recognisances AND WE further grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses that they for ever may have yearly seven fairs or marts The first to be on the feast of Saint George the Martyr [April 23rd] the second on the feast of Saint Hugh the Bishop [November 17th] the third on the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary [January 1st] the fourth on the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary [March 25th] the fifth on the feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary [December 8th] the sixth on the day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary [August 15th] and the seventh on the feast of Saint James the Apostle [December 27th] Each such fair to continue for the day preceding and the day following such feast AND WE grant to the

Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses that they may hold a free market within the town on the Wednesday Friday and Saturday in every week by the year with tolls and liberties pertaining thereto so that the same be not to the nuisance of neighbouring fairs and that they may levy reasonable tolls for animals and other things sold in such markets which they may hold and enjoy without the let or hindrance of us or our Justices Sheriffs or Escheators ALSO WE will &c WITHOUT fine in the Hanaper &c ALTHOUGH express mention &c IN TESTIMONY &c WITNESS the Queen at Westminster the third of April

By writ of privy seal &c

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the Borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Rot: Pat: 41<sup>mo</sup> Eliz. p. 1.*

## Letters Patent of 16<sup>th</sup> James I.

20TH APRIL, 1618.

THESE letters patent are very like those granted by Queen Elizabeth, though somewhat wider. The hamlets of Cotton End, West Cotton, and Saint James' End are for the first time included in the precincts of the town. Five burgesses, who had been previously mayors, are also appointed as aldermen to act with the mayor. The time for the election of the mayor and other officers is changed from a period of four days after the feast of Saint Giles [September 1st] to a period of ten days from the first of August. The jurisdiction of the mayor, recorder and two other burgesses is also increased to enable them to enquire and determine all murthers felonies and other crimes without special commission. The sheriff and county justices are directed not to execute precepts or exercise jurisdiction in Cotton End, West Cotton, or Saint James' End. And the mayor and burgesses are authorised

to hold a court of record. The mayor is to be clerk of the market. And the town is to have the goods of all felons. All freemen of the town are exempted from serving on juries in the county of Northampton, or elsewhere out of the town. Freemen though not living in the town, may be chosen to any office, and are liable to be fined or imprisoned if they do not accept office. All persons, except burgesses, are forbidden to sell any goods in the town. And the corporation received a license in mortmain to purchase and hold lands not exceeding in value fifty pounds annually.

The other provisions of this grant are similar to those contained in the previous grant of Queen Elizabeth.

*Abbreviated Translation.*

Indictment.

JAMES by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c. TO ALL to whom these present letters shall come sends Greeting WHEREAS the town of Northampton is a very ancient and populous incorporated town and the Bailiffs Burgesses and Inhabitants have held liberties franchises and privileges being the grants of former Kings and Queens of England AND WHEREAS the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses have besought us that certain places near the town called Cotton End and West Cotton<sup>171</sup> in the parish of Hardingstone and a place called Saint James End<sup>172</sup> in the parishes of Duston and Dallington (such places being then out of the jurisdiction of the town) where malefactors sometimes concealed themselves and many artificers not being free burgesses resided and practised their arts to the prejudice of the Burgesses should be annexed to the town and the inhabitants placed under the government of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses AND that all the previous grants to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses should be confirmed WE for

<sup>171</sup> These suburbs joined the town on the south, and formed part of the parish of Hardingstone, in the hundred of Wymersley. They were incorporated in the borough precincts by this grant, but appear to have passed back to the county at some subsequent period.

<sup>172</sup> This suburb joined the town on the west, on the road leading to Rugby, and formed part of the parishes of Duston and Dallington, in the hundred of Nettle Grove. It was incorporated in the borough precincts by this grant, but appears to have passed back to the county at some subsequent period.

the amendment of the town and the keeping of the peace there  
of our special grace and at the instance of our beloved and faith-  
ful servant Sir Henry Yelverton Knight the Attorney General and  
Recorder of the town grant that the town of Northampton and  
the precinct thereof shall stretch itself and comprise the several  
places of Cotton End West Cotton and Saint James' End and  
that the inhabitants and the houses and edifices in these places  
shall be and be reputed to be within the precinct of the town  
(hereafter called the town) and that the residents within these  
places shall be under the rule of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses  
**AND WE** further grant that the town of Northampton shall be a  
free town of itself and that the Burgesses shall be a body cor-  
porate and politic by the name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses  
of the town of Northampton with perpetual succession power to  
hold lands and tenements goods and chattels and to grant and  
assign the same and to plead and be impleaded in any courts of  
justice and to use a common seal and to break or change it or  
make a new seal **AND** that three of the more honest and discreet  
Burgesses shall be elected as and be called the Mayor and Bailiffs  
of the town and also that there shall be forty eight honest and  
discreet men dwelling in the town who have never been Mayors  
nor Bailiffs of the town who shall be called the company of eight  
and forty And that the Mayor Bailiffs and Company of Eight and  
forty shall be called the Common Council of the town and shall  
assist the Mayor in all matters touching the town And that the  
Mayor and Bailiffs of the town for the time being and such  
Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs together with the  
company of eight and forty or the greater part of them (and of  
which greater part the Mayor and five other Burgesses who have  
been or hereafter shall be Mayors commonly called Aldermen of the  
town whom we will to be six) shall have authority to frame such  
reasonable laws and ordinances as shall seem to them good whole-  
some and necessary for the rule of the town and for declaring in what  
manner the inhabitants of the town shall conduct and employ them-  
selves and for the good rule and amelioration of the town and the  
victualling of the same and for levying money for our use and the  
uses of the town And for the preservation and government of  
the lands and hereditaments granted to the Mayor Bailiffs and  
Burgesses and their successors And that the Mayor and Bailiffs  
for the time being and such Burgesses who shall have been

At the special  
request of Sir  
Henry Yelverton  
Knight His  
Majesty's att-  
orney General  
Recorder of the  
Towne.

Extent of y<sup>e</sup>  
town.

Annexation of  
Cotton End and  
West Cotton &  
St. James End.

That the Towne  
with the partes  
annexed shall  
be a free Towne.

Name of the  
Corporation.

Mayor Bailiffs  
and Burgesses  
of the Towne of  
Northpton.

Able to purchase  
lands, &c to  
plead and be  
impleaded,  
Common Seal.  
1. Mayor.  
2. Bailiffs.  
The company of  
Eight and forty.

Common Counfell.

Power to make  
laws.

The Mayor and Aldermen to be of the quorum.

To punish transgredors by Imprisonments Fynes or Amerciament.

To levy Fynes and Amerciaments by distress &c.

George Rainsford Mayor.

Roger Wilkinson and Abraham Myners Bayliffes.

Mayor and Aldermen to chuse the 48.

The Company of 48 to continue for their lives unless for reasonable cause they be removed

That ye Mayor and such as hath bene Mayor shall have power to remove any of ye then counself Election of ye Mayor to be by ye present mayor and baillifs within x dayes after the 1 of August. Mayor and Baillifs assembled not to depart untill ye new Mayor been chosen. Mayor to take his othe before the precedent Mayor or Recorder,

\* Second skin.

<sup>173</sup> George Rainsford, or Raynsford, was Mayor of the town in 1595-6, 1603-4 and 1617-8.

ancient custom well and faithfully to execute the office of Mayor of the town aforesaid until the next feast of Saint Michael or until another Burgess shall be appointed AND that the Mayor Bailiffs and such Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Eight and forty shall have power in a similar manner to elect two of the Company of Eight and forty to be Bailiffs who shall take a similar oath And further that if the Mayor die within the year or from his office be amoved it shall be lawful for the Bailiffs and the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Eight and forty or the greater part of them to nominate another Burgess in the place of him so dead or from his office amoved AND if the Bailiffs shall die or from their office be amoved the Mayor and Bailiffs and the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs or the greater part of them shall in a similar manner elect one or two of the Company of the Eight and forty in the place of the Bailiff or Bailiffs dead or amoved and they shall take a similar oath AND if any of the Company of Eight and forty shall die or be amoved (whom for reasonable causes shall be amoveable at the pleasure of the Mayor and such Burgesses who have been Mayors) it shall be lawful for the Mayor and Burgesses who have been Mayors or the greater part of them in a similar manner to elect one or more of the Burgesses in the place of the Burgess or Burgesses so dead or amoved and they shall take a similar oath AND WE further grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses that they may have for ever one honest and discreet man learned in the laws of the kingdom of England to be called Recorder of the town AND WE nominate Sir Henry Yelverton<sup>174</sup> as the first Recorder of the town for the term of his natural life and that after his death the Mayor Bailiffs and greater part of the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of the Eight and forty may elect an honest and discreet man as Recorder of the town and that

The Bailiffs to be elected by Major Bailiffs & Burgesses that have bene Mayors & Bailiffs and by the 48.

Bailiffs to be sworne before the Mayor or Recorder.

Death or re-movall of ye Mayor.

Death or re-movall of the Bailiffs.

The Bailiffs to be chosen out the 48.

Recorder.

Sir Henry Yelverton Recorder.

Election of ye Recorder.

<sup>174</sup> Henry, the son of Christopher Yelverton, was born at Easton Mauduit in 1566, and educated at Oxford, and Gray's Inn, London. Henry Yelverton was one of the representatives of the town at the Parliaments held in 39th Elizabeth, and 1st James I. In 1613 he was made Solicitor-General, and received the honour of knighthood. He succeeded Sir Francis Bacon as Attorney-General in 1617. For offending the King he was degraded and imprisoned in the Tower; but being soon released, he was appointed Judge of Common Pleas. Sir Henry Yelverton died in 1629, and was buried in Easton Mauduit Church, where there is a long inscription to his memory.

Election of ye  
Chamberlains by  
the Mayor &  
Aldermen.

The Mayor  
Recorder for pre-  
cedent Mayor  
& Aldermen to  
be Justices of  
ye peace.

Mayor and  
Recorder to  
heare and  
determin  
murders  
felonyes &c.

Without Com-  
mission or  
Speciall warrant  
from the King.

No lorraine  
Justice of peace  
to intermeddle  
in ye Towne.

Tho: Martyn  
Tho: Cooper  
Justices of peace

he who shall be so elected shall exercise the office of Recorder till the feast of Saint Michael then next following having first taken an oath AND THAT they shall have authority to elect so many and such Chamberlains\* and other officers for the good service of the town as they have been accustomed to do MOREOVER WE grant that the Mayor and Recorder of the town for the time being and the Burgess who was the last Mayor and one other of the more honest Burgesses of the town as the Mayor and Bailiffs of the town and such Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs or the greater part of them shall elect shall be the Justice and Justices to keep the peace and keep and correct the statutes concerning vagabonds artificers and labourers weights and measures in the town and do all other things which pertain to the office of Justice AND THAT the Mayor Recorder and such two Burgesses and any three of them (of whom the Mayor and Recorder shall be two) shall have full power to inquire hear and determine within the town all murders felonies misprisons riots routs oppressions extortions forestalling regratings trespasses offences things matters and articles and other things which to the office of Justice of the peace pertain or which ought to be enquired of together with the punishment thereof And to do and execute all things within the town in as ample a manner as could be done by Justices of the peace in the county of Northampton or elsewhere by virtue of any commission or act of Parliament And this without any special commission The letters patent of the 41st of Queen Elizabeth [hereinbefore printed at page 119] or any other letters patent acts or customs to the contrary notwithstanding AND also that the Justices in the county of Northampton within the town or the places of Cotton End West Cotton and Saint James' End do not in anywise intromit or exercise jurisdiction of matters which to Justices of the peace of the town by virtue of these letters patent appertain And that the Bailiffs of the town may execute the precepts of the Mayor Recorder or Justices within the same as any Sheriff by mandate of a Justice of the peace has been accustomed to do in any county of the kingdom of England AND FURTHER we nominate George Rainsford the now Mayor Sir Henry Yelverton Knight the Attorney General now Recorder and Thomas Martin and Thomas Cooper two Burgesses to be the

\* Third skin.

present Justices of the peace with full powers to act as aforesaid  
 AND WE grant that every Mayor for the time being shall be  
 the Escheator within the town during the time he shall be Mayor  
 having taken his oath well and faithfully to execute the office of Mayor to be  
Escheator.  
 Escheator and that no other Escheator presume to intromit in the  
 town AND WE grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses  
 that they may for ever have and hold one Court of Record in To hold the  
Court of Record  
as anciently  
was used.  
 the Guildhall to be holden before the Mayor and Bailiffs for the  
 time being of all pleas plaints and actions as well real as  
 personal and mixed and of any debts or trespasses whatsoever  
 with views of frankpledge and leets within the town on such  
 days and in such manner as hath been accustomed and render  
 judgment and make execution thereof AND that all juries im-  
 pannelled inquisitions and other things may do and execute any  
 act touching the causes aforesaid AND the Mayor Bailiffs and  
 Burgesses shall have to the use of the town all manner of  
 amerciaments arising from the same And that they may have  
 return of all writs and precepts of the King and summonses Returne of  
Writs.  
 of the Exchequer within the town so that no Sheriff nor Bailiff  
 of us presume to enter the town or precincts or execute sum-  
 monses or attachments of Pleas of the Crown unless in default  
 of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses AND that the Mayor for  
 time being shall be Clerk of the Market and after he has taken The Mayor  
to be Clerk of  
ye market.  
 his oath he shall occupy that office and perform all things to  
 the same appertaining without molestation by any other officer  
 AND for the amelioration of the town because the walls are in  
 great decay we grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses all Grant of all  
Idem tynes &  
amerciaments  
before Justices  
of Assize  
Justices of  
peace &c.  
 manner of fines and amerciaments of all the Burgesses resiant  
 and non-resiants within the town forfeited or lost before the  
 Justices of us assigned in the county of Northampton and before  
 the Justices of us assigned to take the assizes and deliver the  
 gaol and to keep the peace and hear and determine felonies  
 and trespasses in the County of Northampton and before the  
 Clerk of the Market and before the Justices or Commissioners\*  
 itinerant and the Justices assigned for the statutes of sewers in the  
 County of Northampton and before the Mayor Recorder and two  
 Burgesses for the time being or three of them being Justices of  
 the peace within the town and before the Mayor being the Clerk

\* Fourth skin.

of the Market within the town and before the Steward and Marshal of the Household of us and before the several Escheators as well of the county as of the town of Northampton and also before other Justices of us AND FURTHER we grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses "all and singular deodands<sup>175</sup> "chattels estrays goods and chattels debts rights and credits of "felons fugitives felons of themselves<sup>176</sup> persons outlawed and put "in exigent and others whomsoever attainted convicted or con- "demned from time to time" in the town And all forfeitures profits and recognizances taken before the Mayor Recorder or other Justices And that it should be lawful for them to seize such amerciaments by their Ministers without writs or processes from the Exchequer any law or custom to the contrary notwithstanding And the same to have and to hold to the proper use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses without disturbance by us or our Justices Sheriffs Escheators Coroners or others and for levying the same we grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses in their name or in our name to recover the same against any person in any court of Record and the same to convert to the use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses And we command our Treasurer Chancellor Under Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer and other officers that they procure such writs as may be required according to the custom of the Exchequer against any person charged And after levying to pay the same to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses without account And that the present grant or an enrollment thereof shall be sufficient warrant in this behalf AND FURTHER we grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses all those lands and hereditaments called Chamber Lands situate near the town of Northampton which the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses have held by any incorporation of any letters patent or grants "And also all and singular wastes "void grounds purpestures and approvements within the town" To hold the same to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses rendering therefore yearly to us such rents and services which to us or our progenitors have been paid AND we desiring "to provide

Goodes and  
chattells of  
felons.

Recognizances  
forfeited.

Power to sue in  
the Kinges name  
for dues lynes  
amerciaments  
Recognizances  
forfeitures &c.

Mandamus to  
the Lo: Tres &  
officers of ye  
Exchequer after  
ye recovering &  
levyng of ye  
dues lynes &c.

To deliver them  
out of the Exch:  
to ye Mayor &c.

Chamberlands  
confirmed.

Orphantes  
Court.

<sup>175</sup> Deodand is a thing forfeited, as it were, to God. Thus an instrument or thing by which a person meets a violent death is to be dedicated to God, that is sold for the benefit of the poor.

<sup>176</sup> Persons who committed suicide.

"for the safety defence and management of the orphans and "infants" who shall happen to be in the town and that their goods and chattels shall be preserved and laid out for the advantage of such orphans and infants during their minority grant that the Mayor and his brethren who have been Mayors of the town shall have the custody and government of the orphans of any Burgess dying in the town with authority to levy and keep in the common treasury of the town by the chamberlain of the town goods chattels and legacies found or being of any orphans of any Burgesses happening to die and the same to lay out and use for the advantage of the same orphans and that they pay and deliver the increase and profits thereof to the orphans at such age and in the same manner as is used in the city of London with such actions and remedies for the ravishment of any orphans in the town and all such officers for the better government of the orphans their goods and chattels which have been used in the city of London with power to execute and do such things touching the orphans and their goods and chattels as have been accustomed to be done in the city of London AND WHEREAS we have been credibly informed that the Mayor and his successors by whatsoever names they have been called or incorporated "from time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary" have raised and received recognizances between merchant and merchant and made execution according to the statute of merchants and the statutes of Acton Burnell in that case made and provided Now WE therefore grant and confirm that the Mayor may have full power and authority to receive recognizances and make execution thereof according to the said statute of merchants and the said statute of Acton Burnell AND WE nominate our beloved Tobias Coldwell the now Common Clerk of the town commonly called the Town Clerk to be the first and present Clerk to receive and write the recognizances and to continue in the office of Clerk from the date of these letters patent to the feast of Saint Michael next if he so long live and well conduct himself and until some other proper person be elected according to the custom of the town And that the Mayor and such Burgesses who have been Mayors of the town according to the custom of the town or the greater part of them nominate within ten days after the first day of August a fit man to be Town Clerk AND WE grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses that they <sup>7 faires.</sup>

Major & Aldermen to have  
the custodie  
of Orphans.

Goodes & chattells  
of orphans to be  
kept in the  
common Trafory  
of ye Towne.

Major to take  
statute  
Merchant.

Toby Coldwell  
Town Clerk &  
Clarke of ye  
Statutes.

may for ever have seven fairs or marts yearly within the town to be holden in the following manner and form to wit That the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses hold the first on the feast of Saint George the Martyr [April 23rd] the second on the feast of

1. St. George.
2. St. Hughe.
3. The birth of our lady
4. Annunciation of our lady
5. Conception of the Virgin Mary.
6. Assumption of our lady.
7. Saint James date

*Market days.*

Wentdaye  
Frydaye &  
Saterdaye  
Weekly.

Toll granted.

Exemption  
from taxes  
out of the  
Towne.

Each fair to commence on the day next preceding and to be continued on the day next following each feast AND ALSO that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may as heretofore accustomed "have and hold a free market on every Wednesday Friday and "Saturday in every week by the year for ever with toll and all "liberties courts of Piepowder<sup>177</sup> and free customs" so that such fairs and markets be not to the nuisance of neighbouring fairs and markets AND we command that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may for ever have and hold such fairs and markets and levy such reasonable tolls or tributes for beasts animals and other things sold or bought in the fairs and markets aforesaid as of right are levied in any town borough or city in the county of Northampton AND THAT they may hold and enjoy all the said liberties and free customs according to the effect of these letters patent without impediment by us or by our Justices Sheriffs Escheators or other Bailiffs or Ministers AND WE further grant that the Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses and free men of the town shall not be impannelled in any appeals juries assizes or inquisitions before any Justices assigned to take assizes or writs of Nisi Prius or to hear and determine treasons felonies or misdeeds within the county of Northampton or any other Justices or before the Commissioners of the Sewers or any other Commissioners or the Escheator or other Bailiffs or ministers of us out of the town or forfeit americiament unless the same juries assizes or inquisitions touch us MOREOVER WE grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses that if any person being a Burgess or free man shall be lawfully

<sup>177</sup> Courts held in the market where those who came with "dusty feet" could obtain immediate justice.

elected to exercise any office in the town and such person (having had due notice of such election) refuses to exercise the office to which he has been elected that then it shall be lawful for the Mayor and such Burgesses who have been Mayors or the greater part of them to impose reasonable amerciaments upon such refusing as to the Mayor and Burgesses or the greater part of them shall seem reasonable And such person refusing to pay such amerciaments to commit to prison within the town and continue in prison until he shall pay such amerciaments to the use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses notwithstanding the said statute of Henry VII. [hereinbefore printed on page 101] or other statute and notwithstanding that such person at the time of his election shall not be a resiant dweller in the town so only that he should be a Burgess or free man of the town AND THAT it shall be lawful for the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses by their officers to put themselves in seizin of the same amerciaments by distraining the goods and chattels of such person to the use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses without impediment AND further that no merchant artificer tavern keeper or brewer or other exercising any art or any pedlar or petty chapman (who is not a Burgess) selling any wares or woollen or linen cloth (a certain linen cloth called housewives cloth only excepted) or other merchandize enter the town or presume to use any house shop or standing within the town for exercising their arts or for sale of their wares (except at the times of fairs and marts) under such pains and penalties as may be lawfully inflicted on such delinquents AND MOREOVER WE grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses special license and authority of acquiring and possessing messuages lands tenements and other hereditaments as well of us as of any others who did not hold of us immediately in chief nor by Knights' service so that the same do not exceed the clear yearly value of fifty pounds the statute for not putting lands or tenements to mortmain or any other statute to the contrary notwithstanding With power to give grant bequeath or alienate such tenements or hereditaments AND FURTHER WE grant that all letters patent charters and confirmations customs and ordinances of our famous progenitors Kings or Queens of England which the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses have reasonably held or exercised by the name of the Mayor and Commonalty of the town or the name of the Mayor Burgesses and Commonalty of the town or by the name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses

Power to chuse  
freemen though  
not inhab.ants  
to any office with  
in the Towne.  
To iure him vs  
shall refuse to  
take vpon him  
the office where-  
to he is chosen.

That no foray-  
ner shal sel by  
retayle any  
wares within  
the Towne &c.  
but in tyme  
of faires.

Licence to  
purchase in  
mortmaine to  
so li value per  
annum.

Confirmations  
of all their  
ancient mrs.

Grant and confirmation of lands tenements freeholdings &c.

A Clause of  
restitution to  
their former  
liberties.  
To enjoy their  
liberties in case of  
non-victor or  
abuse.

of the town of Northampton shall be ratified and confirmed To hold the same to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton for ever rendering therefore yearly to us the like rents or services which had been paid or answered to us or our ancestors AND WE grant that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses shall be restored to all the liberties franchises and free customs which they previously enjoyed notwithstanding that they may not have used the same Without let or impediment of us or our Justices Sheriffs Coroners or Escheators

Without fine in the Hanaper

By writ of Privy Seal  
Yonge

This charter is written in Latin on five skins of parchment, 33 inches wide and 25 inches deep.

The first skin is very highly illuminated. Within the initial J is a portrait of the King seated on his throne, crowned; clad in a crimson robe, lined with ermine; and wearing the chain, garter, and George attached to a blue ribbon appearing under the cloak of the order of the garter; in his right hand he bears the sceptre, and in his left the orb. Above the upper line in the centre, are emblazoned the royal arms:—*Quarterly, first and fourth grand quarters, FRANCE MODERN, and ENGLAND quarterly; second grand quarter, SCOTLAND; and third grand quarter IRELAND;* within the garter, supported by lion and unicorn. Round the edge of the skin are the following heraldic designs:—A lion statant gardant or, imperially crowned, the crest of England. On an imperial crown, a lion sejant affronté gu., imperially crowned, holding in the dexter paw a sword, and in the sinister a sceptre, both erect and proper, the crest of Scotland. And the badges:—Rays or, descending from a cloud arg., first used by Edward III. A falcon arg., within a fetterlock closed or, used by Edward IV, who ordered that his son, Richard, Duke of York, should bear the same badge with the fetterlock open. A falcon arg., crowned and holding in the dexter talon a sceptre or, standing on the stock of a tree gold, out of which sprout both red and white roses, used by Anne Boleyn, and also by her daughter Queen Elizabeth. A crowned fleur-de-lys or.

The second, third, and fourth skins are unornamented.

The fifth skin, like the first, is highly illuminated, with eight shields, interwoven with representations of flowers, fruit, birds, butterflies, insects, and reptiles. Four of the shields are identical, and bear the arms of Northampton :—*Gu., on a plain point vert, a tower ar., (not triple towered) supported by two lions rampant guardant or.* The other four shields are also identical :—*Arg., three lions rampant guardant gu., a chief of the second, a mullet sa., for difference, YELVERTON;* above each of these four shields is written :—" *Henricus Yeluerton Miles Alturnatus D. Regis Gen-*" *eralis Recordator."*

Almost the whole of the great seal of England, in brown wax, remains attached to the silver and silver gilt plaited cord.

On the left hand margin of each skin are notes of the contents of the document in English, as here printed.

It is only indorsed :—

" 23 "

## Letters Patent of 15th Charles II.

3RD AUGUST, 1663.

THE corporation this year obtained a new grant from the King. After the letters patent had been received the general assembly ordered that those persons who had entered into a bond for procuring money to defray the charges for the same, which amounted to £170, or thereabouts, as appeared by the bill then read, should have security of the corporation to bear them out therein.

These letters patent are very similar to those of the 16th James I., of which a full abstract is printed on page 125; the following translation is therefore very much condensed. The corporation continued to act under this grant until 1706, in consequence of the grant of the 35th Charles II., proving abortive.

*Abbreviated Translation.*

## Charter of Confirmation to the Mayor and Commonalty of Northampton.

THE KING to all to whom &c Greeting WHEREAS the town of Northampton is an ancient and populous town and has been possessed of divers privileges Wherefore the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses have humbly besought us to confirm the grants of our progenitors with certain additions KNOW ye that our augmentations to the said town have been made out of our great affection for the same AND WE WILL that for keeping the peace and for the good government of the town of our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion we grant and confirm that the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses shall be the present Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of Northampton and the franchises thereof AND THAT Northampton shall be a free town AND THAT the Burgesses shall be one body corporate by the name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton with perpetual succession and in law persons capable to possess lands and franchises goods and chattels And to plead and be impleaded in any courts AND to have a common seal and break and change the same for a new one AND ALSO WE WILL that three of the more honest Burgesses be elected as Mayor and Bailiffs of the town And that there shall be forty eight good and discreet men dwelling in the town who have never been Mayors nor Bailiffs who shall be called "The Company of eight and forty" who with the Mayor and Bailiffs shall be called the Common Council of the town and shall assist the Mayor AND WE WILL that the Mayor Bailiffs and Company of Eight and forty together with three other Burgesses of the town (who shall have been Mayors) commonly called Aldermen of whom four shall be a quorum with full power and authority to frame such laws as shall appear to them necessary and good for the conduct of the burgesses artificers and inhabitants of the town And for the victualling of the same And that they may impose fines or penalties AND WE NOMINATE John Brayfeild<sup>178</sup> to be the Mayor of the town from the present

<sup>178</sup> John Brayfeild, or Brasfield, was elected mayor on the 19th September, 1662, in lieu of William Spencer, who was then put out of office by the regulation of King Charles.

time until the next feast of Saint Michael the Archangel and until another Burgess be appointed provided he so long live AND WE APPOINT James Coles Esquire Edward Collis Jonathan Whiston Thomas Throneton William Vaughan John Friend Joseph Hensman and John House to be the Aldermen<sup>179</sup> of the town AND WE APPOINT Francis Pickmer and Laurence Tomkins to be the Bailiffs and to continue in office until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel or until two others shall be appointed provided they so long live AND WE WILL that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses who have been Mayors shall as they have been accustomed of old time to do elect such Burgesses as may be necessary to form the Company of Eight and forty who shall continue for their lives unless amoved AND WE GRANT that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses who have been Mayors may call and dissolve the Common Council any statute to the contrary notwithstanding AND WE WILL that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may annually within ten days next after the 1st day of August assemble in the "Guhalda" or some other convenient place in the town and there according to the statute of the 4th Henry VII [hereinbefore printed on page 101] elect one Burgess as Mayor of the town for the ensuing year who before acting shall take his oath of office before the last Mayor or the Recorder AND THAT the Mayor Bailiffs and Company of Eight and forty shall have power in a like manner to elect two out of the eight and forty as Bailiffs who shall also take their oaths of office before acting in the same way And in case the Mayor shall die or from his office be amoved that the Bailiffs the Burgesses who have been Mayors and the Company of Eight and forty shall elect another Burgess in his place And that they may in a similar manner elect Bailiffs in the place of those who shall die or from their office be amoved And that they may also elect Burgesses in the place of any of the company who shall die or be amoved AND WE GRANT that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may elect one learned in the laws called the Recorder

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<sup>179</sup> Of these Alderman, Edward Collis was mayor of the town in 1654-5, 1670-1; Jonathan Whiston, or Whiston, in 1657-8, 1674-5. Thomas Throneton, or Thornton, in 1661-2; William Vaughan in 1663-4; and John Friend, or Frend, in 1665-6, 1669, 1676-7, and 1677-8.

AND WE APPOINT our councillor Edward Earl of Manchester<sup>10</sup> to be the Recorder for life and after his decease his successor shall be elected by the Common Council And that they shall have authority to elect a Chamberlain and such officers and ministers as may seem necessary AND WE GRANT that the Mayor and Recorder the Burgess who was last Mayor and one other Burgess shall be our Justices of the Peace and perform all things pertaining to that office AND THAT the Mayor Recorder and two other Burgesses shall be able to hear and determine all things which to the office of Justice of the Peace belong. AND WE WILL that our Justices of the Peace for the County of Northampton do not intromit or meddle in the town or liberties thereof AND WE CONSTITUTE John Brayfeild Mayor Edward Earl of Manchester Recorder and others to be our Justices of the Peace and that of them the Mayor Recorder or Deputy Recorder shall have power to hear and determine all murders felonies riots oppressions and other matters AND THAT the Mayor shall be our Escheator AND WE GRANT that the Mayor and Bailiffs may hold one court of Record in the Guildhall of actions real or personal on such days as have been accustomed and render judgments and levy fines therein and have return of all writs AND THAT the Mayor shall be Clerk of the Market AND WE GRANT to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses fines and amerciaments of all Burgesses forfeited before the Justices of the County of Northampton or elsewhere AND WE GRANT to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses the goods and chattels of felons or fugitives for the good of the town wherefore we command our Treasurer to procure such writs as may be necessary for levying the same and to pay the same to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses AND WE GRANT to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses the hereditaments known as Chamber Lands together with all wastes purprestures and appurtenances To hold the same to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses rendering therefore yearly to us the rents and services which to us and our progenitors have been rendered AND wishing to provide for the safety of orphans of the town WE GRANT that the Mayor and his brethren who have been Mayors shall have the custody of the orphans of any

<sup>10</sup> Edward Montagu was born in 1602, and succeeded as second Earl of Manchester in 1642, the same year he was appointed Lord Lieutenant, and in 1660 Custos Rotulorum for Northamptonshire. He was "a person of great civility and 'very well bred,' and 'of a debonair nature'" He died in 1671.

Burgess of the town And that they shall keep the goods and chattels of the same in the common treasury of the town in the same way that is done in the city of London AND as we have been informed that the Mayor has been used to receive recognizances according to the statute of merchants WE GRANT to the Mayor the power to receive recognizances according to the statute of merchants AND WE NOMINATE Henry Lee<sup>161</sup> the Town Clerk to be the clerk to write such recognizances and to continue in the office of clerk of the town from the present time to the feast of Saint Michael if he so long live and well demean himself AND WE GRANT that the Mayor and such Burgesses who have been Mayors may within ten days after the 1st August annually elect a Town Clerk AND THAT the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may have seven fairs or marts annually in the town the first to be on the feast of Saint George the Martyr [April 23rd] the second on the feast of Saint Hugh the Bishop [November 17th] the third on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary [January 1st] the fourth on the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary [March 25th] the fifth on the feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary [December 8th] the sixth on the day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary [August 15th] and the seventh on the Feast of Saint James the Apostle [December 27th] each fair to commence on the day preceding and to be continued on the day following each feast AND THAT they may hold a market on the Wednesday Friday and Saturday in every week with tolls and liberties and a court of Piepowder wituout let or hindrance AND WE GRANT that the Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses and free men of the town shall not be impannelled on any juries whatsoever out of the town AND WE FURTHER GRANT that if any person being a Burgess or free man shall be elected to any office and refuse to serve the Mayor and such Burgesses who have been Mayors may impose reasonable fines and if such person refuse to pay such fines they may commit

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<sup>161</sup> Henry Lee was appointed Town Clerk in 1662. He was an antiquary, and wrote a history of the town of Northampton, which is now in the Bodleian Library, at Oxford; it is headed "Memorandums of the Antiquities of the Town of Northampton and of severall remarkable things acted in this Kingdom of England collected by Henry Lee in the eighty sixth year of his age who served y<sup>e</sup> Corporation of Northampton in the office of Town-Clerke fifty and three years till August 1715."

him to prison whether residing in the town or not and also distrain his goods AND FURTHER that no merchant pedlar or chapman shall sell goods within the town except in times of fairs and marts unless he be a Burgess AND WE GRANT to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses license to acquire lands or hereditaments not exceeding the yearly value of fifty pounds AND THAT all letters patent charters and ordinances of our dearest progenitors to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses shall be ratified and confirmed to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses for ever They rendering yearly the rents and services which have been heretofore rendered AND THAT all liberties and privileges formerly enjoyed by the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses shall be restored although they may not have used the same AND WE ORDAIN that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses Recorder and other officers of the town nominated by these or other letters patent shall take the oaths of obedience or of supremacy before such persons as shall be ordained by law for that purpose WITHOUT express mention &c IN TESTIMONY whereof &c WITNESS myself at Westminster the 3rd day of August

By the same King

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding abridgement has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

*Rot: Pat: 15<sup>th</sup> Car. II. p. 19. n. 3.*

## Letters Patent of 35th Charles II.

20TH SEPTEMBER, 1683.

IN 1683 the corporation of Northampton desired to have a new charter; and on the 18th July of that year the assembly voted an address to the King under the common seal, and at the same time it was ordered that the charter be surrendered to Sir Roger Norwich, Baronet, to be delivered to the King and that the common seal be attached to the surrender.

The new grant was accordingly obtained, and at the next Assembly held on the 25th September of the same year, it was ordered that money be raised either on mortgage, or by sale of the town lands to pay for the new charter.

Bridges,<sup>163</sup> writing at the end of the seventeenth century, states that in consequence of the surrender of the last charter of the 15th Charles II. not having been enrolled, these letters patent were, in the opinion of Sir Edw. Northey, the Attorney-General, void. And so the corporation continued to act under the previous grant of 15th Charles II., until the last letters patent were received in 1796.

These letters patent, are here only very shortly abstracted, as they are of great length and very similar to those of 16th James I., of which a full epitome is printed before on page 125. This document commences in the usual way.

### *Abbreviated Translation.*

CHARLES THE SECOND by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c TO ALL to whom these presents shall come Greeting WHEREAS

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<sup>163</sup> Bridges' *Northamptonshire*, vol. 1, p. 433.

these letters patent are granted by us upon a petition of the Corporation dated the 25th July 1683 Now WE WILL that the limits of the town shall be the same as those mentioned in the grant of the 16th James I AND WE WILL and grant that the town shall be corporate THAT the Corporation shall be competent in law to have a common seal THAT the Mayor Bailiffs and Forty-eight Burgesses shall form the Common Council THAT the Mayor and Aldermen shall have power to make laws statutes and ordinances for the good government of the town and that they shall have power to enforce the same by fines and punishments\* WE APPOINT Thomas Atterbury<sup>163</sup> as Mayor of the town And we appoint William Else Jonathan Whiston John Willoughby John Bradfeild John Friend John Howes Richard Rands Richard White and Robert White to be the Aldermen of the town And we appoint John Warnes William Pettit Frances Ratdmyt Richard Harris Henry Lee Thomes Serjeant John Clifford Robert Addis Raphdeleur Coldwell Richard Ebraff James Green Robert Ives senior Henry Flexney Charles Lyon Nicholas Knyt Samuel Short Robert Styles John Peake Richard Buckingham Richard Ward and Samuel Clifford as Bailiffs of the town AND WE appoint Thomas Shadwick John Warner Nathaniel Andrews Henry Watts Nathaniel Potter Robert Coles John Pigeon senior Thomas Brafeild John Farr John Twinden John Dunckley John Pigeon junior Thomas Harrison Bartholomew Parr Robert Sanders Thomas Clarridge Hatton Atkins Edward Hellier William Weecles Samuel Martin John Rands Richard Pigeon William Burt Henry Osmond John Lane John King John Bayly Richard Harris Richard Holled Thomas Lacey Henry Cooper Edward Frind John Fokser Thomas Bates John Dilley Francis Batten Thomas Scrivener Fraur Booth William Cooke Charles Cook to be the Company of Forty AND WE direct that the Mayor Bailiffs and the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs or the majority of them shall have power to elect the Mayor annually between the 1st of August and the 26th September in the Guildhall or other convenient place in the town AND THAT in case the Mayor shall die or be removed from his office his successor shall be elected by the Bailiffs and the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Forty or the majority of them AND WE direct

\* Second skin.

<sup>163</sup> Thomas Atterbury, or Atterburg, was mayor of the town in 1682-3.

that the Mayor shall take his oath of office before the last Mayor and the Recorder of the town AND THAT in case the Bailiffs die or be amoved from their office their successors shall be elected by the Mayor Bailiffs the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Forty AND WE will that the town have a discreet and learned man as Recorder AND WE appoint Henry Earl of Peterborough<sup>184</sup> as Recorder of the town for life And after his decease his successor shall be elected by the Common Council of the town AND WE\* also will that the town have one Seneschal AND WE appoint Henry Harris one of the Bailiffs as Seneschal to remain in that office so long as he well demean himself AND WE direct that the Seneschal shall take the oath of office before the Mayor or Recorder and any of the Aldermen Bailiffs or Burgesses who choose to be present AND WE will that his successor shall be elected by the Common Council AND WE appoint Henry Lee<sup>185</sup> as Common Clerk who shall take his oath of office in the same manner as the Seneschal and his successor shall be elected by the Common Council AND WE will that the Common Council shall have power to nominate such Chamberlains Officers and Ministers for the good government of the town as they may think fit AND WE will that the Mayor Recorder and Deputy Recorder or any one of them and their successors shall be our Justices of the Peace within the liberties of the town to execute all that pertains to that office AND WE direct that the Justices of the Peace for the County of Northampton shall in no way intromit or interfere AND WE will that the Mayor shall be the Escheator of the town AND THAT a Court of Record shall be held in the Guildhall before the Mayor Recorder Deputy Recorder and the two Bailiffs AND THAT the

\* Third skin.

<sup>184</sup> Henry Maundaunt was born in 1621, and succeeded as second Earl of Peterborough in 1644. He was possessed of Drayton, in this county, and was keeper of the King's game in that manor. On the 5th July, 1673, the Earl was appointed Lord Lieutenant for the western division of this county, and was Lord Lieutenant for the whole county from the 20th February, 1678, to the 23rd December, 1688. He was appointed Recorder of Northampton on the 20th July, 1682, of Higham Ferrers in 1683, and of Brackley on the 8th September, 1688. His motto was: *Lucem tuam da nobis*. Earl Maudaunt married Penelope, daughter of the Earl of Thomond, by whom he had two daughters. He died on the 19th June, 1697.

<sup>185</sup> For note as to Henry Lee see page 141.

Corporation shall have return of all writs summonses of the Exchequer and other processes AND THAT the Mayor shall be Clerk of the Market AND WE<sup>\*</sup> further grant to the Corporation all fines amerciaments or redemptions of Burgesses whether resident or not resident in the town made or forfeited before our Justices of Oyer and Terminer of Assizes of Gaol Delivery or of the Peace or before the Clerk of the Market the Justices in Eyre or the Commissioners of "Les Sewers" in the County of Northampton or before the Mayor Recorder and two Burgesses Justices of the Peace or the Clerk of the Market in the town or the Seneschal and Marshal the Escheator in the town or county of Northampton or before any other Justices Commissioners of us in the county of Northampton And also the goods and chattels of felons and all forfeited recognizances And with power to sue in our name for issues fines amerciaments and recognizances forfeited Mandamus to the Lord Treasurer and officers of the Exchequer after the recovery and levying of the fines to deliver them out of the Exchequer to the Mayor And we confirm the Chamberlains' orphans court AND WE appoint that the Mayor and Aldermen shall have custody of orphans and that their goods and chattels shall be kept in the common treasury AND WE appoint the Mayor to take statutes merchant and recognizances AND WE appoint Henry Lee the Town Clerk to be the Clerk of the Statutes AND WE grant† seven fairs yearly on the same days as mentioned in the charter of 16th James I. AND WE also grant a market to be held on the first Thursday in every calendar month for the sale and purchase of cattle except horses mares and colts AND a market every Wednesday Friday and Saturday throughout the year with the right of levying tolls and with a Court of Pie-powder and free customs AND THAT all Burgesses shall be exempt from serving on juries out of the town AND with power to elect any freeman though not resident in the town to any office within the town AND THAT any one refusing to accept any office to which he has been elected shall be fined and in default of payment committed to prison and detained until the fine shall be paid AND WE grant that none but Burgesses and freemen shall exercise any trade

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\* Fourth skin.

† Fifth skin.

art mystery or calling or keep any shop or stall or sell wares or merchandize or use any art or calling in the town AND THAT no pedlers or "petty chapmen" shall sell any cloth (except "Huswifes cloth") or any merchandize (except victuals) by retail except in time of fairs AND THAT the Corporation shall have license in mortmain to purchase to the value of £50 yearly AND WE hereby confirm all ancient liberties lands manors tenements free fishing and other privileges AND THAT\* the Recorder shall have power to appoint a deputy to act during his pleasure AND WE further will that the Mayor Aldermen Bailiffs Burgesses Recorder Deputy Recorder Seneschal Common Clerk and all other officers and ministers of the town shall take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy AND WE further reserve power to amove the Mayor Aldermen Recorder or other officer of the town or any of them by letters under our Signet IN TESTIMONY whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent WITNESS myself at Westminster the 20th day of September in the 35th year of our reign

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin on six skins of parchment,  $31\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and 25 inches deep. The first of these is adorned with a portrait of the King, a shield bearing the royal arms (Stewart), and other crowned shields, bearing singly England, France, Scotland (without treasure), Ireland, and the double rose badge of England. The other skins are ornamented in a similar manner. All these designs are printed from copper plates.

Two small fragments of the great seal in green wax remain attached to the red and white cord.

On the back is only:—

"24"

There is also a copy of these letters patent in the Public Record Office, where they are referred to as:—

*Rot: Pat: 35 Car. II., p. 3. n. 2.*

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\* Sixth skin.

## Letters Patent of 1st Anne.

10TH JULY, 1702.

THESE letters patent, which are of the nature of an inspeximus charter, simply inspect and confirm the letters patent of the 15th Charles II., without granting any fresh privileges.

### *Translation.*

ANNE by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith &c. TO ALL to whom these our present letters shall come Greeting WE HAVE INSPECTED the inrolment of certain letters patent of confirmation bearing date the third day of August in the fifteenth year of the reign of Charles the Second made and granted to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton as appears of record by our Chancellor of the Exchequer in these words The King to all [and so forth, repeating the whole of the letters patent of 15th Charles II., 3rd August, 1663, printed before at page 137.] Now WE the inrolments aforesaid at the request of the said Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton aforesaid include and exemplify by these presents IN TESTIMONY whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent WITNESS myself at Westminster the 10th day of July in the first year of our reign

Trevor Trymes  
Examined by us { Will Roges  
and  
Jno Roges

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin on six skins of parchment, 34 inches wide and 32 inches deep.

Each skin is ornamented with designs printed from copper plates. On the first is a portrait of Queen Anne; a shield bearing the royal arms of England (as used by the Stuarts); and other shields bearing singly England, France, Scotland, and Ireland, surmounted by crowns; and a shield bearing a crowned thistle as the badge of Scotland; the whole interwoven with floriated patterns. The other five skins are adorned in a similar manner. Two Inland Revenue stamps, of five shillings each, are impressed on every skin.

The whole of the great seal of England, as used by King William III., after the death of Queen Mary, in yellow wax, attached to white and red platted cord, and placed in a circular tin box, is still extant, and is in fair preservation.

On the back is written:—

"25"

"An Exemplifysacon att the Request  
"of the Mayor Bayliffs and Burgesses  
"of the Towne of Northton."

## Exemplification of a Judgement.

12TH FEBRUARY, 1744.

THIS document is a record of a judgement of the Court of King's Bench at Westminster, with respect to certain market rights of the town.

### *Abbreviated Transcript.*

GEORGE THE SECOND BY THE GRACE OF GOD of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the faith &c. To all to whom these presents shall come GREETING We have inspected a certain Record had before us in these words PLEAS before our Lord the King at Westmister of the Term of the Holy Trinity in the 17th and 18th George the Second 1744 Roll 1002 Northamptonshire to wit The Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of Northampton by their attorney against Thomas Ward the younger

by his attorney Be it remembered that on Friday next after the morrow of the Holy Trinity in the same Term The Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses brought a Bill against the said Thomas Ward then in the custody of the Marshal of the Marshalsea for that he on the 5th day of May 1743 had entered the close of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses called the Butcher's Row within the parish of All Saints in the town of Northampton and erected a stall in the same close and permitted the same to remain there for ten days to the great damage of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses amounting as they say to the sum of £20 Whereupon the said Thomas Ward pleads not guilty And as to the space of twenty hours part of the said space of ten days the said Thomas Ward says that the said close called Butcher's Row formed part of the Market Hill where a public Market had been held on the Saturday in every week for the sale of raw flesh and other merchandise And that there had been an ancient custom whereby every butcher being a burgess or freeman had been accustomed to erect and use stalls in the said close on every market day freely And the said Thomas Ward says he is a burgess freeman and butcher of the town Therefore he had on the said 5th day of May that being a Saturday and market day entered the said close and erected a stall there for the space of twenty hours for the sale of meat The issue was tried before Sir Lawrence Carter Knight and Edward Denison Esquire at the Assizes held in and for the County of Northampton on the third day of July 1743 when the Jury John Packhurst Esquire Samuel Harding Esquire John Blencowe Esquire John Orme Esquire Edward Maunsell Esquire John Tryon Esquire Charles Bletsoe Esquire William Ash Esquire Samuel Goodman Gentleman Thomas Banks Gentleman Richard Marryott Gentleman and William Foster Gentleman found that the said Thomas Ward was guilty of trespass and assessed damages to the amount of one shilling and costs to the amount of £2. 13s. 4d. due to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses The parties not being satisfied the cause was removed to Westminster where after several adjournments it was held by the Court that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses were not barred from their action and so they were held to be entitled to recover the several sums of one shilling for damages £2. 13s. 4d. for costs and £122. 5s. 8d. for further costs amounting altogether to £125.

This document is written in English on four skins of parchment, 36 inches wide and 32 inches deep. On the first skin is a portrait of the King, the royal arms, &c., and the other skins are also ornamented with designs printed from copper plates.

Each skin bears an Inland Revenue stamp of the value of 10s.

Fragments of the seal of the Court of King's Bench in a tin box are attached.

It is indorsed:—

"The Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses  
"of the Corporation of Northampton

"agst

"Thomas Ward."

"27"

## Letters Patent of 36th George III.

2ND APRIL, 1796.

IN 1795 the letters patent of the 1st Queen Anne were surrendered to the King. Mr. Thomas Hall being mayor and Messrs George Osborn and Samuel Holt bailiffs at the time.

In May, the same year, the mayor and corporation drew up a petition to the King, praying him to regrant to the burgesses all their ancient grants and privileges. But they did not think it necessary to convene a general meeting of the town for this purpose. Mr. Martin Lucas, however, thought otherwise, opposed the petition, and called a general meeting in the County Hall, which caused great confusion.

Committees were formed, a counter petition praying the King not to grant the new charter without the knowledge of the petitioners, was signed by about 500 persons, and presented by the Honble. Edward Bouvierie.

The draft of the proposed new grant was accordingly sent to the town committee for their approval; and in November these gentlemen came to the following resolution:—

"That this committee do now decline all further opposition to the new charter; as, having been defeated in their main pursuit of obtaining a participation in the construction of it, they have no hopes of succeeding better by combating particular clauses though there might be some which to them may appear objectionable."

In the meantime the court of aldermen resolved to nominate eight persons to fill up the vacancies in the forty eight; and "to be inserted in the new charter now soliciting"; and it was added that all officers should continue in their respective offices.

The new letters patent were accordingly prepared, and early in the year 1796, Mr. Hall, accompanied by Mr. John Markham, went to London, and on the 6th April they returned with the new grant.

On the arrival of the carriage with the Mayor, Lord Compton, the Honble. Spencer Percival, Mr. Markham, and the precious document, the horses were taken out, and the carriage drawn through the principal streets.

At the Guildhall the mayor addressed the burgesses in these words:—

"Gentlemen,—It is with infinite satisfaction I have the honour to lay before you your charter of incorporation, whereby his Majesty has been pleased to confirm your ancient rights and privileges. The feeble opposition made against your obtaining this royal grant, I doubt not, has satisfied every candid mind it originated in error, and without foundation. You requested only your rights to be established on a solid and permanent basis, and I am confident I speak the language of you all when I say, the powers now vested in you and myself as a body, will never be exercised but for the true and best interests of the town in general."

After this address, the mayor and the corporation, with Lord Compton, Mr. Perceval, and the principal inhabitants dined together at the Peacock Hotel.

The cost of obtaining this new grant was enormous, and we find that during the years 1795-6 the corporation borrowed £1600 of various persons towards these expenses. The mayor's accounts for these years show the following disbursements that come under that head:—

	£. s. d.
12 Nov. Mr. Jeyes, Town Clerk, on account of the Charter ...	40 0 0
8 Jan. Mr. Jeyes, on further account of the Charter...	40 0 0
16 Mar. Mr. Jeyes, on further account of the Charter...	100 0 0
At the Council Office, ditto ...	60 5 6
Patent Office, ditto ...	160 17 0
Secretary of State's Office, ditto ...	343 17 6
Signet Office, ditto ...	390 13 7
Privy Seal Office, ditto ...	392 13 6
Lord Chancellor's Office, ditto ...	255 3 8
My own and Mr. Markham's Expenses to London for the Charter ...	22 3 0
2 Sept. Mr. Jeyes, on further account of the Charter ...	200 0 0
Printing a Bill ditto ...	14 19 2

The rejoicings over the new charter were also various and costly, as appears from the following particulars from the same accounts :—

	£. s. d.
6 April Mr. Francis Osborn, Expenses of the night the Charter arrived ...	53 4 11
Mr. George Osborn for Ribbons upon the arrival of the Charter ...	3 13 10
For Beer ditto ...	12 7 8
Mr. Francis Osborn, Expenses of Ladys Assembly ...	18 18 6
Musick at Ditto ...	1 16 0
Mr. Dilkin for a Transparency ...	20 5 0
Mr. Bemington for Lighting it ...	40 0 0
Expenses of the Constables for attending ...	1 2 6
Mr. Samul Holt, for Scaffolding for the Transparency ...	6 3 8
16 May Mr. Richard Mills, for a Dinner ...	53 9 0
Boyes, for Oranges and Lemons ...	1 15 0
John Wickens, for Nuts and Oranges ...	0 13 0
George Osborn, for Sugar ...	1 5 4
Mr. James Miller, for Candles ...	1 0 6
Mr. M. Francis, for Biskets ...	0 6 0
Sergeants' Expenses at their Dinners ...	0 15 0
Two Cork Screws ...	0 2 0

The assembly in 1796, voted a hundred guineas to Mr. Spencer Perceval, deputy recorder, for his trouble and pains in connection with the new charter, together with five guineas to his clerk. Fifty guineas were voted, for a like cause, to Mr. John Markham.

It was also ordered on July 4th of that year, "that the Expenses of the Treat at the Peacock Inn on the Evening the Charter arrived here and was received by the Corporation as also the Mayor's Feast, the Ball given to the Ladys and Gentlemen, and the Expenses of the Transparency be paid by Mr. Mayor and charged to the credit of his account in the Corporation."

These letters patent being the last ever granted to the borough of Northampton, are here printed in full from the original. The side notes are not in the original, but are here printed for convenience of reference.

## Letters Patent of 36th George III.

2ND APRIL, 1796.

Preamble.

GEORGE THE THIRD BY THE GRACE OF GOD of Great Britain France and Ireland King defender of the faith and so forth TO ALL TO WHOM these our Present Letters shall come Greeting WHEREAS the Town of Northampton in our County of Northampton is a Town very ancient and populous and from ancient times hath been a Town incorporated and the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and the Inhabitants of the same and their Predecessors have had and held divers Liberties franchises Privileges and Immunities from the Donations and Concessions of divers our Progenitors and Ancestors late Kings and Queens of England AND WHEREAS it has been humbly besought of us that wee would vouchsafe to ratify approve and confirm all and singular the aforesaid Grants Charters and Letters Patent of all or any our Progenitors and Ancestors to the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Predecessors by any Name or Names of Incorporation made and granted and whether such Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses are now

a Corporation or not with Addition Augmentation Alteration and Explanation of such Liberties Grants Privileges Immunities and franchises according as to us should seem expedient for the public Good and Common Utility of the same Town KNOW YE that wee most earnestly desiring the Benefit Advantage Prosperity Augmentation and Amendment of the Town aforesaid and also the good State and Government of the same and being willing that from henceforth for ever one certain and undoubted Manner and form **may be continually had in the same Town and Place** aforesaid for the keeping of Peace and the good Rule and Government of the People there and that our Peace and other Acts of Justice there may be without further delay observed of our special Grace and our certain Knowledge and mere motion **HAVE willed ordained appointed granted ratified confirmed and declared and by these Presents for ourselves our Heirs and Successors DO will ordain appoint grant ratify confirm and declare that the aforesaid Town of Northampton and the Circuit Precincts Limits Bounds Compass Liberties franchises**

Boundaries  
of the Town.

**Incorporation  
by the name of  
the Mayor  
Bailiffs and  
Burgesses.**

certain Knowledge and mere motion for ourselves our Heirs and Successors **DO will ordain appoint grant ratify confirm and declare that the said Town of Northampton henceforth be and shall be a free Town of itself and that the Burgesses of the said Town and their Successors from henceforth and for ever be and shall be by force of these Presents one Body Corporate and Politic in Deed fact and Name by the Name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton and them by the Name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton into one Body Corporate and Politic in Deed fact and Name really and to the full for us our Heirs and Successors we do erect make ordain and constitute confirm and declare by these Presents and that by the same Name they may have a perpetual Succession and that they by the Name of the**

Capacity to  
Purchase.

**Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton be**

and shall be always in times to come Persons able and in Law capable to have purchase receive and possess Lands Tenements Liberties Privileges Jurisdictions franchises and Hereditaments of what kind nature or species soever they shall be to them and their Successors in ffee for ever and also Goods and Chattels and other things whatsoever of what kind nature or species soever they shall be AND ALSO to Give Grant Demise and Assign Lands Tenements and Hereditaments Goods and Chattels and to do and execute all and singular other Deeds and Things by the name aforesaid AND THAT by the same Name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton they may be empowered and enabled to plead and be impleaded to answer and be answered to defend and be defended in whatsoever Courts Pleadings and Places and before whatsoever our Judges and Justices and other persons and Officers of us, and our Heirs and Successors in all Suits Plaints Pleas Causes Matters and Demands whatsoever of what Kind Nature or Species soever they be in the same manner and form as others our liege People of this our Kingdom of England being Persons able and in Law capable can and may plead and be impleaded answer and be answered defend and be defended and to have purchase receive posses give grant and demise AND THAT the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors shall and may have for ever a Common Seal which shall serve for the doing of their and their Successors Matters Business and Affairs whatsoever and that it shall and may be lawful for the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors from time to time at their Pleasure to break such Seal and change or make a new One according as to them

Common Seal

The Mayor.

Bailiffs.

shall seem requisite and fit AND further wee will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do Grant and ordain appoint ratify confirm and declare that from henceforth for ever there be and shall be within the Town aforesaid one of the most honest and discreet Burgesses of the Town aforesaid in form hereinafter in these Presents mentioned to be nominated and chosen who shall be and shall be called the Mayor of the Town aforesaid AND \*THAT likewise there be and shall be within the same Town two of the most honest and discreet

\*Second skin.

Burgeises of the Town aforesaid in Form beneath in these Presents mentioned to be chosen who shall be and shall be called the Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid AND ALSO THAT <sup>48</sup> Burgesses. henceforth there be and shall be within the Town aforesaid from time to time forty and eight honest and discreet Men dwelling and abiding within the same Town and which never have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town who shall be called the Company of Eight and forty. AND WEE will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant that the Mayor and two Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the time being and such other Burghesses of the same Town who heretofore have been in Law or in fact Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town and have exercised such Offices respectively during so long time as they were respectively elected thereunto whether duly elected thereunto or not and also such other Burghesses of the same Town as hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town together with the aforesaid forty eight Burghesses called the Company of Eight and Forty shall be and shall be called the Common Council of the Town aforesaid and shall be from time to time assistant and aiding to the Mayor of the said Town for the time being in all causes and matters touching and concerning the Town aforesaid AND FURTHER WEE will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant ratify confirm and declare that the Mayor and Bailiffs of the aforesaid Town of Northampton and their Successors and such Burghesses of the same Town which heretofore have been or have exercised the Offices of Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town in manner aforesaid or hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town together with the aforesaid other Burghesses called the Company of Eight and forty and their Successors for the time being or the major part of the same of which major part wee will the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the time being and three other Burghesses of the same Town which heretofore have been or have exercised the Office of Mayors of the same Town in Manner aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors of the same Town commonly called Aldermen of the same Town shall be four have and shall have full Power and Authority to constitute ordain and make from time to time such reasonable Laws Statutes and Ordinances

Common  
Council to be  
assisting to the  
Mayor.

Power to  
make By-laws.

which to them according to their sound Discretion shall seem to be good wholesome profitable honest and necessary for the good Rule and Government of the Burgesses and other Inhabitants of the Town aforesaid for the time being and for a Declaration in what manner and order the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Town aforesaid for the time being shall demean and use themselves in their Offices within the Town aforesaid and the Limits of the same for the further good and public Service Government and Bettering of the Town aforesaid and victualling of the same and for levying of Moneys to and for the necessary Uses of the same Town and also for the better Preservation guiding disposing letting and setting of Lands Tenements Possessions Rents Revenues and Hereditaments to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the aforesaid Town of Northampton and their Successors heretofore given granted assigned or confirmed or hereafter to be given granted assigned or confirmed or as they or their Predecessors by whatsoever Name or Names or by whatsoever Title of Incorporation known or incorporated or whether they were incorporated or not have held and enjoyed and for Accounts Matters and other Causes whatsoever touching or any ways concerning the Town aforesaid or the State Right and Interest of the same Town yet so as such Laws Statutes and Ordinances be not repugnant or contrary to the Laws Statutes Customs or Rights of our Kingdom of England AND for the better Execution of our Grants in this Behalf we have assigned constituted appointed nominated and made and by these Presents do for us our Heirs and Successors assign constitute nominate appoint and make our beloved Thomas Hall now Mayor or exercising the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid to be the first and new Mayor of the same Town willing that the same Thomas Hall shall be and continue in the Office of Mayor of the said Town from the making of these Presents until the Day of the feast of St. Michael the Archangel next to come and from the same until another Burgess of the aforesaid Town shall be preferred and sworn to that Office according to the Ordinance and Constitutions hereunder in these Presents expressed and declared if the said Thomas Hall<sup>156</sup> shall so long live AND FURTHER

First Mayor.

Aldermen.

<sup>156</sup> Thomas Hall was Mayor of the Town in 1789-90, 1794-5, 1795-6, and again in 1808-9.

WE have nominated assigned appointed and confirmed and by these presents do for us our Heirs and Successors nominate assign appoint and confirm our beloved Thomas Breton William Gibson William King John Newcome Robert Trasler William Tompson Clark Hillyard William Marshall James Sutton Richard Mills Samuel Treslove Hill Gudgeon Richard Meacock James Miller William ffrancis and Jeremiah Briggs now called Aldermen of the said Town to be Aldermen of the Town aforesaid for and during their respective natural Lives unless in the mean Time for some just and reasonable Cause they or any of them be in due Manner removed from their Office and Offices Moreover we <sup>First two</sup> ~~Bailiffs.~~ have assigned nominated constituted and made and confirmed and by these Presents do for us our Heirs and Succcessors assign nominate constitute make and confirm our beloved George Osborn and Samuel Holt now Bailiffs or exercising the Office of Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid to be the first and new Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid to be continued in Office until the aforesaid feast Day of St. Michael the Archangel next coming and from the same feast until two other Burgeses of the Town aforesaid shall be preferred and sworn to the Office\* of Bailiffs of the same Town according to the Orders and Constitutions in these Presents expressed and declared if the same George Osborn and Samuel Holt shall so long live AND further we have nominated ~~Bailiffs.~~ assigned and confirmed and by these Presents do for us our Heirs and Successors nominate assign and confirm our beloved William Pain Martin Lucas Henry Duke Edward Cox Charles Smith John Hollis Thomas Dickinson Thomas Scriven James Brown ffrancis Hayes Thomas Smith John Segary Joseph Edge Thomas Hodgkinson John Matthews Hopkins John Chambers William Ager Benjamin Goodman James Cliff Edward Wood John Harris Timothy Chapman and ffrancis Shaw who have heretofore been Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid or have exercised the Office of Bailiff of the Town aforesaid to exercise the Duties and have the Privileges by these Presents conferred upon such Burgessess as have been Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for and during their respective natural Lives unless in the mean Time for some just and reasonable Cause they or any of they be in due Manner removed from their Office or Offices AND further wee have <sup>The 4<sup>th</sup></sup> ~~Burgesses.~~

\* Third skin

nominated assigned and confirmed and by these Presents do for us our Heirs and Successors nominate assign and confirm our beloved William Fox John George Hugh Sharp James Linnell Richard Alliston Joshua Stevenson John Gibson Aaron Thompson Whitmill Paine William Tarry James Boon Robert Roddis Francis Osborn William Birdsall Arthur Brownsgrave James Jones John Bull Collins Robert Trasler the Younger William Pain the Younger John Fox William Dunkley John Scofield George Ffiss William Sutton John Harris Thomas Westley William Odell John Hall Thomas Taylor Thomas Catterns Thomas Hillyard Barnard Levi Samuel Brown Joseph Cross John Johnson John Wright Thomas Armsfield Richard Scriven John Barrett William Marshall the Younger William Balaam Charles Balaam John Dunkley Joseph Ekins Lewis Charles Freeman James Dunkley William Trasler and Thomas Treslove to be the new and present Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty of the same Town for and during their respective natural Lives unless in the mean Time for some just or reasonable Cause they or any of them be in due Manner removed from their Office or Offices AND further we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors that the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the Time being and such Burgesses of the same Town who have been heretofore Mayors or have heretofore exercised the office of Mayors of the Town aforesaid in Manner aforesaid or who hereafter shall have been Mayors of the same Town shall from Time to Time according to the ancient Customs of the same Town used as often as there shall be Occasion assign nominate and elect constitute and make so many and such Burgesses as to them shall seem necessary and convenient to be the forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty of the same Town in the Room or Stead of those who may die or may be removed from their Office or Offices in order to complete and keep up the Number of forty eight Burgesses of the same Town which said forty eight Burgesses so assigned nominated elected constituted and made shall be and shall be called the Company of Eight and forty of the same Town during their natural Lives unless in the mean Time for some reasonable Cause according to the ancient Usage of the Corporation they

Election of  
48 in case of  
death.

or any of them shall be removed from that Office or Place a Corporal Oath to execute the Office in all Things touching the same being first taken AND we further will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the Time being and such Burgeses of the same Town who have been heretofore Mayors or have heretofore exercised the Office of Mayor of the said Town as aforesaid or hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayors of the same Town or the major Part of the same from time to time may have and shall have Authority and Power for any reasonable Cause or Causes to displace and remove from their Office or Place of Common Council any of the said forty eight Burgeses called the Company of Eight and forty and also such Burgeses of the same Town who heretofore have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the said Town or have exercised the Office of Mayor or Bailiff of the same Town in Manner aforesaid or who hereafter shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town and thereby or by virtue of these presents Members of the Common Council aforesaid any use prescription or custom to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding And further wee will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do Grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the time being and such Burgeses of the same Town who heretofore have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town or have exercised the Office of Mayor or Bailiff of the said Town in Manner aforesaid or who hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same town together with the aforesaid forty eight Burgeses called the Company of Eight and forty and their Successors from time to time for ever hereafter may have, and shall have Power and Authority yearly within ten Days next following the first day of August in every Year to assemble themselves or the major part of them in the Guildhall of the Town aforesaid or in other convenient Place within the Town aforesaid according to their Discretion to be limited and assigned and there to Continue until they or the major part of them then and there assembled shall have elected and nominated One of the Burgeses of the Town

Removal of  
Members.

Election of  
Mayor.

Mayor's Oath.

aforesaid to be Mayor for the Year who shall be Mayor of the Town aforesaid for one whole Year from Michaelmas THEN<sup>\*</sup> next following AND that after he shall be so nominated and elected as aforesaid before he be admitted to execute that Office he shall take a Corporal Oath upon the Holy Gospel of God Yearly in the Solemnity of the said feast of St. Michael the Archangel before the last Mayor his Predecessor or the Recorder or the Deputy Recorder of the town aforesaid which for the time being shall be according to the ancient Custom of the same Town to execute that Office rightfully well and faithfully in all things touching the same and that after such Oath so taken he may take upon him ought and is empowered to execute the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid until the Day of the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then next following and so long after until another of the aforesaid Burgesses of the Town aforesaid shall be in like due Manner and Form elected preferred and sworn for the Mayor of the Town aforesaid AND moreover wee will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do Grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors That the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the time being and such Burgesses of the same Town who heretofore have been or have exercised the Office of Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town in manner aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town for the time being and the aforesaid forty and eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty and their Successors from time to time and at all times hereafter may have and shall have Power and Authority yearly within ten Days next after the aforesaid first day of August in every Year to assemble themselves or the major Part of them in the Guildhall of the town aforesaid or in any other convenient place within the Town aforesaid at their Discretion to be limited and assigned and there to continue until they so as aforesaid assembled shall have nominated and elected two of the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses commonly called the Company of Eight and forty of the town aforesaid to be Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the Year following in form aforesaid to be elected and nominated and that they be there empowered to elect and nominate two of the aforesaid

Election of  
Bailiffs.

\* Fourth skin.

Forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty who from thenceforth shall be Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for one whole Year next following the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then next Ensuing And that they after they shall be Bailiff's Oath. so as aforesaid elected and nominated for Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid before they be admitted to execute that Office shall yearly in the Solemnity of the said feast of Saint Michael the Archangel take their Corporal Oaths upon the Holy Gospel of God before the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the time being or the Recorder or Deputy Recorder of the Town aforesaid for the time being according to the ancient Custom of the same Town rightly truly and faithfully to execute that Office in all things touching the same and that after such Oaths so taken they may take upon them and are fully empowered to execute the Office of Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then next following and so long after until two other of the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty shall in due manner and Form be elected preferred and sworn for Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid AND FURTHER we will and by these Presents for us Election of  
Mayor in Case  
of Death. our Heirs and Successors do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that if it shall happen the Mayor of the Town aforesaid at any Time hereafter within one Year after he shall be preferred and sworn to the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid in Manner as aforesaid shall die or be removed from his Office that then and so often it shall be lawful for the Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid and such Burgesses of the same Town which heretofore have been in Manner aforesaid Mayors or Bailiffs of the same or have exercised the Office of Mayor or Bailiffs of the same Town in Manner aforesaid and also such Burgesses who hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayors or Balliffs of the same and the forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty which for the time being shall be or the major Part of the same with a convenient time after the Death or Removal of him the Mayor to assemble themselves or the major Part of them in the Guildhall of the Town aforesaid or in any other convenient Place within the Town aforesaid according to the ancient custom in the same Town used and there to continue till they or the major part of them then and there assembled

**Mayor's Oath.** aforesaid to be Mayor for the Year who shall be Mayor of the Town aforesaid for one whole Year from Michaelmas THEN\* next following AND that after he shall be so nominated and elected as aforesaid before he be admitted to execute that Office he shall take a Corporal Oath upon the Holy Gospel of God Yearly in the Solemnity of the said feast of St. Michael the Archangel before the last Mayor his Predecessor or the Recorder or the Deputy Recorder of the town aforesaid which for the time being shall be according to the ancient Custom of the same Town to execute that Office rightfully well and faithfully in all things touching the same and that after such Oath so taken he may take upon him ought and is empowered to execute the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid until the Day of the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then next following and so long after until another of the aforesaid Burgesses of the Town aforesaid shall be in like due Manner and Form elected preferred and sworn for the Mayor of the Town aforesaid AND moreover wee will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do Grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors That the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the time being and such Burgesses of the same Town who heretofore have been or have exercised the Office of Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town in manner aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town for the time being and the aforesaid forty and eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty and their Successors from time to time and at all times hereafter may have and shall have Power and Authority yearly within ten Days next after the aforesaid first day of August in every Year to assemble themselves or the major Part of them in the Guildhall of the town aforesaid or in any other convenient place within the Town aforesaid at their Discretion to be limited and assigned and there to continue until they so as aforesaid assembled shall have nominated and elected two of the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses commonly called the Company of Eight and forty of the town aforesaid to be Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the Year following in form aforesaid to be elected and nominated and that they be there empowered to elect and nominate two of the aforesaid

**Election of  
Bailiffs.**

\* Fourth skin.

Forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty who from thenceforth shall be Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for one whole Year next following the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then next Ensuing And that they after they shall be Bailiff's Oath. so as aforesaid elected and nominated for Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid before they be admitted to execute that Office shall yearly in the Solemnity of the said feast of Saint Michael the Archangel take their Corporal Oaths upon the Holy Gospel of God before the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the time being or the Recorder or Deputy Recorder of the Town aforesaid for the time being according to the ancient Custom of the same Town rightly truly and faithfully to execute that Office in all things touching the same and that after such Oaths so taken they may take upon them and are fully empowered to execute the Office of Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then next following and so long after until two other of the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty shall in due manner and Form be elected preferred and sworn for Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid AND FURTHER we will and by these Presents for us Election of  
Mayor in Case  
of Death. our Heirs and Successors do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that if it shall happen the Mayor of the Town aforesaid at any Time hereafter within one Year after he shall be preferred and sworn to the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid in Manner as aforesaid shall die or be removed from his Office that then and so often it shall be lawful for the Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid and such Burgesses of the same Town which heretofore have been in Manner aforesaid Mayors or Bailiffs of the same or have exercised the Office of Mayor or Bailiffs of the same Town in Manner aforesaid and also such Burgesses who hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayors or Balliffs of the same and the forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty which for the time being shall be or the major Part of the same with a convenient time after the Death or Removal of him the Mayor to assemble themselves or the major Part of them in the Guildhall of the Town aforesaid or in any other convenient Place within the Town aforesaid according to the ancient custom in the same Town used and there to continue till they or the major part of them then and there assembled

shall have elected nominated and preferred one other honest and fit Man of the aforesaid Burgesses of the Town aforesaid in the Room of him so dead or put out of his Office and that he so elected and preferred to the Office of Mayor having first taken a Corporal Oath according to the ancient Custom of the same town may have and exercise that Office during the residue of the same Year and until another of the aforesaid Burgesses shall be elected and sworn to that Office and so from Time to as often as the case shall happen AND if it shall happen the Bailiffs of the town aforesaid which for the time being shall be or either of them shall die or be removed from his or their Office of Bailiffs of the Town\* aforesaid that then and so often it shall and may be lawful for the Mayor and the remaining Bailiff of the Town aforesaid and the Burgesses which heretofore have been or have exercised the Office of Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town as aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town and the forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty which for the time being shall be or the major Part of the same for the time being within convenient time and according to the ancient Custom in the same Town used after the aforesaid Bailiff or Bailiffs shall so die or be removed from their Office aforesaid to assemble in the Guildhall in the Town aforesaid or in any other convenient place within the Town aforesaid and that thereupon it shall and may be lawful for them or the major part of them so assembled to elect nominate and prefer One or two of the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses of the Town aforesaid called the Company of Eight and forty as the Case shall require into the Place or Places of him or them the Bailiff or Bailiffs so dead or from their Office removed And that he and they so as aforesaid elected and preferred may have and exercise that Office or those Offices during the Remainder of the same Year and until another or others of the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses of the Town aforesaid shall be elected and sworn to that Office of Bailiff or Bailiffs of the same Town a Corporal Oath according to the Ancient Custom in the same Town used being first to be taken and so as often as the Case shall so fall out AND FURTHER we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do Grant and Confirm

Recorder.

Election of  
Bailiffs in Case  
of Death.

\* Fifth skin.

to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that they and their Successors shall for evermore have one honest and discreet Man learned in the Laws of our Kingdom of England in Form hereinafter expressed to be chosen and nominated who shall be and shall be called the Recorder of the Town aforesaid who shall have power to appoint from Time to Time as to him shall seem necessary and convenient one honest and discreet Man learned in the Laws of our Kingdom of England to be his Deputy and him to remove as occasion may require And we have made assigned nominated constituted and appointed and confirmed and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors DO make assign nominate constitute and appoint and confirm our well beloved and Right Trusty SPENCER EARL OF NORTHAMPTON<sup>167</sup> now Recorder or exercising First Recorder.  
 the Office of Recorder of the said Town to be the first and new Recorder of the Town aforesaid AND WE HAVE made assigned nominated constituted and appointed and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors DO make assign nominate constitute and appoint our beloved SPENCER PERCEVAL<sup>168</sup> Esquire Barrister at Law to be the first and new Deputy Recorder of the said Town Subject nevertheless to Removal at the Discretion of the said Spencer Earl of Northampton or his Successor or Successors Recorder or Recorders of the Town aforesaid And that after the Death or Removal of the aforesaid Spencer Earl of Northampton from the same Office of Recorder the Mayor and Bailiffs and the major Part of the Burgesses which heretofore have been or have exercised the Office of Mayor or Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid in Manner aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid and the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty of the Town aforesaid

<sup>167</sup> Spencer Compton was born 5th August, 1738, and succeeded as eighth Earl of Northampton, 18th October, 1763. He was appointed Recorder of Northampton, 1st November, 1763, and Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of Northamptonshire, 19th July, 1771. He died the 7th April, 1796.

<sup>168</sup> Spencer Perceval, the son of John, Earl of Egmont, and Catherine Compton sister of the Earl of Northampton, was born 1st November, 1762, educated at Harrow and Trinity College, and called to the Bar. He was elected one of the members for the borough of Northampton in 1797; became successively Solicitor General, Attorney General, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Prime Minister. He was shot on the 11th May, 1812, as he was entering the House of Commons, and was buried at Charlton, in Kent.

for the time being or the major part of them be empowered and in convenient time may elect nominate and prefer from time to time as often as they shall think fit and necessary one honest and discreet Man learned in the Laws of England for the Recorder of the Town aforesaid and that he which after the Death or Removal of the said Spencer Earl of Northampton shall be elected nominated and preferred as aforesaid to the Office of Recorder of the Town aforesaid may and is enabled to have exercise and enjoy that Office of Recorder of the Town aforesaid until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next following the Nomination and Election aforesaid a Corporal Oath for faithfully discharging the Office aforesaid being first to be taken AND FURTHER we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the Time being and such Burgesses of the Town aforesaid who have heretofore been Mayors or who have heretofore exercised the Office of Mayor of the same Town or who shall hereafter have been Mayors of the same Town or the major of them shall and may have Power Ability License and Authority from time to time for ever as often as they shall think fit and necessary for the public Good of the Town and Corporation aforesaid to elect and nominate so many and such Chamberlains and other Officers and Ministers for the Good Service and Common Benefit of the Town aforesaid as afore time they have been lawfully accustomed to elect and nominate or hereafter shall think fit and necessary to elect and nominate which Officers and Ministers so as aforesaid elected and nominated or to be elected and nominated shall severally do and execute their Offices unto which they shall be elected and NOMINATED\* according to the Exigent of Law and as heretofore they have been lawfully accustomed to do and execute MOREOVER we have Granted and for us our Heirs and Successors DO by these Presents grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town aforesaid and their Successors that the Mayor and the Recorder and the Deputy Recorder of the Town aforesaid and their Successors which from time to time shall be during the time that they shall happen to be

Election of  
Chamberlain  
and other  
Officers.

First Mayor  
Recorder, De-  
puty Recorder,  
late Mayor, and  
three Aldermen  
to be Justices  
of the Peace.

\* Sixth skin.

in those Offices and one Burgess of the same Town for the time being who last was Mayor of the Town aforesaid and three other of the more honest circumspect and skilful Burgesses of the Town aforesaid who heretofore have been or have exercised the Office of Mayors of the Town aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors of the same Town and who shall be elected and chosen by the said Mayor Bailiffs and such Burgesses as afore time have been or have exercised the Office of Mayors or Bailiffs in Manner aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the forty eight Burgesses commonly called the Company of Eight and forty or the major Part of them from Year to Year or from time to time according as need shall be shall be our Justices and every of them shall be our Justice and of our Heirs and Successors as well for the Keeping of Peace in the same Town and the Liberties and Precincts of the same as for the execution of the Statutes about Vagabonds Artificers Labourers Weights and Measures and for the restraining and punishing Offences against the same within the same Town and Liberties and Precincts of the same and also to do and execute all and singular other the Matters and Things which belong and appertain to the Office of Justice of Peace and that the same Mayor the Recorder the Deputy Recorder the Burgess who last was Mayor and three Burgesses in form aforesaid to be nominated and elected or any three of them of which Wee will that the Mayor and the Recorder or the Deputy Recorder for the time being be two may have and shall have for evermore full Power and Authority to enquire hear and determine within the aforesaid Town Liberties and Precincts of the same as well in the Presence of us our Heirs and Successors as in the Absence of us our Heirs and Successors of and concerning all and all manner of Murders felonies Misprisions Riots Routs Oppressions Extortions florestalling Regrating Offences Trespasses Things Matters and Articles and all other Things whatsoever within the Town aforesaid Liberties and Precincts of the same from time to time arising and happening which to the Office of a Justice of Peace any ways belong or are incumbent or which hereafter shall happen or may belong and be incumbent or which by any means ought or may be enquired of heard and determined before Justices of the Peace together with the Correction and Punishment thereof and generally to do and execute

all other Things within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties and Precincts of the same as fully wholly and in as ample Manner and Form as any Justice or Justices of the Peace of us our Heirs and Successors in our County of Northampton or elsewhere within our Kingdom of England before time have had or exercised or hereafter can and may have and exercise by Virtue of any Commission Act of Parliament Statute Law or Custom or by any other lawful Means whatsoever and that in as large manner and form as if the same had been specially and by special Words expressed contained and mentioned in these our Letters Patent and that without any special Commission or Commissions Mandate or Warrant from us our Heirs or Successors hereafter to be had obtained or procured in that behalf WE will also and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do Grant and Command that our Justices of Peace and of our Heirs and Successors in the County of Northampton aforesaid or any of them do not any ways hereafter intermeddle or concern themselves or himself with the Town aforesaid or the Liberties of the same or any of them or have or exercise any Jurisdiction of or about any Causes Things or Matters whatsoever which by Virtue of these our Letters Patent do belong or in any wise appertain to the Justice of the Peace of the Town aforesaid And that the Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the time being shall from time to time execute the Precepts and Warrants of the same Mayor Recorder and other Justices of the Peace within the Town aforesaid for the time being and all other Things whatsoever like as any Sheriff of this our Kingdom of England by the Mandate of any Justice of Peace in any the Counties of us our Heirs and Successors within our said Kingdom hath been accustomed to do return or any way execute AND further we have nominated assigned and constituted and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do assign nominate and constitute the aforesaid Thomas Hall the now Mayor or now exercising the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid and the aforesaid Spencer Earl of Northampton the now Recorder or now exercising the Office of Recorder of the same town and the aforesaid Spencer Perceval the Deputy Recorder of the same Town to be our Justices of the Peace and of our Heirs and Successors within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties of the same Town so long as they respectively shall continue and be in their said respective offices of Mayor and Recorder and

Country  
Justices not to  
Intermeddle.

Bailiffs to exe-  
cute Writs, &c.

Justices to hear  
and determine  
Offences and  
punish  
Offenders.

Deputy Recorder of the same Town AND<sup>\*</sup> WE HAVE also nominated constituted and appointed and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do nominate constitute and appoint Jeremiah Briggs<sup>189</sup> who last was Mayor or who last exercised the Office of Mayor of the said Town to be one other of our Justices of the Peace and of our Heirs and Successors within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties of the Same until the Election of a new Mayor of the same Town and that they our said Justices and others our Justices of the Peace to be appointed as aforesaid in the Town aforesaid for the Time being or three of them of which we will the Mayor and the Recorder or Deputy Recorder for the time being to be two have and every of them have full Power and Authority to enquire of hear and determine within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties and Precincts of the same as well in the Presence of us our Heirs and Successors as in the Absence of us our Heirs and Successors of and concerning all and all Manner of Murders felonies Misprisions Riots Routs Oppressions Extortions forestalling Regrating Trespasses Offences and all other Things whatsoever within the Town and the Liberties and Precincts of the same from time to time arising or happening which any ways belong or are incumbent or hereafter shall happen or may belong or be incumbent to the Office of a Justice of the Peace or which by any means ought or may be enquired of heard and determined before Justices of the Peace together with the Correction and Punishment thereof and to do and execute all other Things within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties of the same as fully and wholly and in as ample Manner and Form as our Justices of Peace or of our Heirs or Successors in the County of Northampton, or elsewhere within our Kingdom of England heretofore have had and exercised or hereafter can or may have or exercise by Virtue of any Commission Act of Parliament Law or Custom or by any other lawful Means whatsoever and in as ample Manner and Form as if the same had been Specially and by Special Words expressed mentioned and contained in these our Letters Patent and that without any Mandate or Warrant from us our Heirs or Successors in that Behalf to be hereafter procured or obtained and that our Justices of the Peace or of our Heirs or Successors of the same County of Northampton

\* Seventh skin.

■ Jeremiah Briggs was mayor of the town in 1793-4.

Court of  
Record.

aforesaid or any of them may not hereafter intermeddle or concern themselves or himself within the Town or Liberties of the same nor have or exercise any Jurisdiction of any Causes Things or matters whatsoever which to the Office of a Justice of Peace of the Town aforesaid by Virtue of these our Letters Patent do belong or in any ways appertain AND moreover of our further Grace and of our certain Knowledge and meer Motion we will and by these Presents Do Grant and Confirm for Ourselves Our Heirs and Successors to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the said Town of Northampton and their Successors that they from henceforth for ever may have and hold and are empowered and enabled to have and hold one Court of Record to be holden in the Guildhall of the said Town of Northampton before the Mayor and Bailiffs of the said Town for the Time being of all and all Manner of such like Pleas Plaints and actions as well real as personal and mixed and of whatsoever Debts Accompts Trespasses Covenants Contracts Detentions and Contempts together with such and such like Views of ffrank Pledges Leets and other Courts within the said Town of Northampton Liberties Precincts and Jurisdictions of the same arising happening or befalling as and at such days and Times and in such like manner and form as heretofore hath been used and accustomed in the said Town and the same Pleas Plaints and Actions may hear and determine and Judgment thereupon give and Execution thereupon make for ever in the same Manner and form and by such and the like ways means and proces by which and as heretofore hath been used in the Town aforesaid and that all Juries impannelled Inquisitions Attachments Precepts Mandates Warrants Judgments Processes and other Things whatsoever necessary to be done within the Town or Liberties of the same touching or concerning the Causes aforesaid be done and executed by the Officers and Ministers of the Town aforesaid for the time being according to the due form of Law in the like Cases heretofore used in the Town aforesaid and that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the said Town of Northampton and their Successors may have and shall have to the use and benefit of the same all and all Manner of ffines and Americaments Poundage on Execution and all other Profits of and in the Court aforesaid or by reason or pretext of the same Court from time to time for ever arising happening or contingent AND ALSO we

will and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do Return of Writs.  
 Grant and Confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors that from henceforth for ever they may have and shall have Return of all our Writs and Precepts and of our Heirs and Successors and Execution of the same and Summon of our Exchequer and of our Heirs and Successors within the Town Liberties and Precincts of the same of and concerning all and every the Thing and Things within the same Town Liberties and Precincts of the same by any Means whatsoever arising so that no Sheriff or other Bailiff or Minister of us or of our Heirs or Successors may enter or presume to enter the Town Liberties and Precincts of the same for the Execution of the same Writs or for Summon and Attachments in Pleas of the Crown or other the Things aforesaid or to do or execute any other Office there unleſs on Default of them the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors AND MOREOVER of our especial Grace of our certain Knowledge and meer Motion WEE\* GIVE AND ORDAIN and by these Presents Mayor to be Clerk of the Market.  
 for us our Heirs and Successors do grant and confirm to the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors that every Mayor of the said Town of Northampton for the Time being be and shall be Clerk of the Market within the same Town Liberties and Precincts of the same and that the said Mayor after he shall take his Corporal Oath well and faithfully to execute the Office of Clerk of the Market in Manner and Form in the same Town heretefore used may have occupy and hold the Office of Clerk of the Market within the same Town Liberties and Precincts of the same together with all and every the Things to that Office appertaining and belonging and that every Mayor of the said Town for the Time being shall and may execute and do all Things which any ways belong to or are incumbent on the Office of Clerk of the Market within the same Town of Northampton Liberties and Precincts of the same without any moleſtment or impeachment of us our Heirs or Successors or of any of our Ministers or Officers whatsoever And further for the bettering of the State of the same Town and that other common Burdens there may from time to time be the better and more easily supported we will and have granted and of our Grant of Fines and Amercia- ments.

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\* Eighth skin.

especial Grace and of our certain Knowledge and meer motion for us our Heirs and Successors by these Presents Do Give and Grant and Confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors all and all Manner of Issues fines Amerciaments Ransoms Penalties Things lost and forfeited of all and every the Burgesses Persons resident and not resident whatsoever within the aforesaid Town Liberties and Precincts of the same and any of them before our Justices of Oyer and Terminer and of our Heirs and Successors within the aforesaid County of Northampton and before our Justices of Assize and of our Heirs and Successors in the same our County of Northampton and before our Justices of Gaol Delivery and of our Heirs and Successors in the said County of Northampton and before our Heirs and Successors their Justices for the keeping of the Peace and to hear and determine of divers felonies Trespasses and other Misdemeanors in the said County of Northampton assigned or to be assigned and before our Heirs and Successors their Justices or Commissioners upon the Statute of Sewers within the aforesaid County of Northampton assigned or to be assigned and before the Mayor Recorder and two Burgesses for the time being or three of them as aforesaid Justices of the Peace of us our Heirs and Successors within the Town Liberties and Precincts of the same being and before the Mayor of the said Town for the time being Clerk of the Market of us our Heirs and Successors within the same Town and the Liberties and Precincts of the same and also before all other Justices Commissioners or Ministers of us our Heirs and Successors whatsoever within the aforesaid County of Northampton to be forfeited lost foregone imposed made done offered or any ways sustained AND FURTHER of our more abundant Special Grace and of our certain Knowledge and meer Motion for us our Heirs and Successors Do Give and Grant and Confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors all and singular Deodands Goods and Chattels Waifs Estrays Goods Chattels Debts Rights and Credits of felons and fugitives Self Murderers Persons Outlawed and put in Exigent and of other Persons whatsoever attainted convicted or condemned from time to time happening growing or arising within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties of the same and to us our Heirs or Successors belonging or apper-

Grant of Deo-  
dands, Waifs,  
and Estrays.

taining AND also all and singular the fforfeitures and Profits of all and singular Recognizances had taken and acknowledged before the Mayor Recorder Deputy Recorder and other the aforesaid Justices of our Peace or before any one or more of them within the Town aforesaid for the Peace or good Behaviour towards us our Heirs or Successors and our liege People or for the appearance of any Person or Persons before the aforesaid Mayor Recorder and other the aforesaid Burgesses Justices of our Peace and of our Heirs and Successors there depending or to depend forfeited or to be forfeited from time to time and to Us Our Heirs and Successors any ways belonging or appertaining and also the fforfeitures and Profits of all and singular other Recognizances before the Mayor Recorder Deputy Recorder and other Justices of our Peace or of our Heirs or Successors or before any one or more of them within the Town or Places aforesaid for any other Matter Cause or Thing whatsoever had taken or acknowledged or to be had taken or acknowledged and that it may and shall be lawful for the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the said Town of Northampton and their Successors all and singular Such like Issues ffines Amerciaments Ransoms Penalties and fforfeitures and all and singular the Premises above by these Presents afore granted from time to time to collect take seize and levy by the proper Ministers of the aforesaid Mayor Bailiff and Burgesses and their Successors and that without any Writ Warrant or Process from us our Heirs or Successors our or their Exchequer or from any other Court at Westminster to be issued made or in anywise obtained any Law usage Course or Custom of the said Exchequer or other our Courts heretofore had made or used or any other thing to the contrary thereof notwithstanding and the same Issues ffines AMERCIAMENTS\* fforfeitures and profits to receive have and convert to the proper Use Behoof Benefit and Profit of the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors for ever and thereof themselves to put into Possession and Seizin without Account or any other thing thereof or any Part or Parcel thereof to us our Heirs and Successors to be rendered paid or made TO HOLD to the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the said Town and their Successors without impeachment Disturbance

\* Ninth skin.

Molestation or Hindrance of us our Heirs and Successors or of our Justices Sheriffs Escheators Coroners or any other Officers or Ministers of us our Heirs and Successors whatsoever And for the better levying of the same fines Issues Profits fforfeitures Goods Chattels and other the Premises by these Presents before granted we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do give and grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors full Power License and Authority in the Name of them the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses and their Successors or else in the Name of us our Heirs or Successors to sue for and recover the aforesaid fines Issues Profits Americaments fforfeitures Deodands Goods Chattels and other the Premises by these Presents before granted or any Parcel thereof against any Person or Persons whatsoever in any Court of Record according to the Law of this our Kingdom of England and the same so recovered to levy receive have and convert TO the only and proper Use and Behoof of them the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors Wherefore we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do charge and command the Treasurer Chancellor Under Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer and all other Officers and Ministers of us our Heirs and Successors for the time being to whom in this Behalf it shall belong that they direct and cause to be directed all and whatsoever Writs and Processes which in this behalf shall be requisite according to the Course and Custom of the Exchequer aforesaid to be made against whatsoever Person and Persons with the aforesaid Issues fines Americaments fforfeitures Goods and Chattels and other the Premises or with any Thing of the Premises charged or to be charged and also that after the levying or recovery of the same Premises that our said Treasurer Chancellor Under Treasurer and Barons of our Exchequer and of our Heirs and Successors from time to time shall pay and deliver or cause to be paid and delivered the same Premises to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors without any Accompt or any other thing therefore To us our Heirs or Successors any ways to be rendered paid or made and these our Letters Patent or the Inrollment of them shall be from time to time unto the aforesaid Treasurer Chancellor Under Treasurer and Barons of the said Exchequer

and of our Heirs and Successors and to all other our Officers and Ministers and of our Heirs and Successors of the said Exchequer for the time being a sufficient Warrant and Discharge in this behalf AND FURTHER of our more abundant special Grace and Grant of Chamber Lands. of our certain Knowledge and meer Motion we have given granted ratified and confirmed and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do give grant ratify and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors all those Lands Tenements and Hereditaments whatsoever commonly called or named Chamber Lands situate lying and being in or near the said Town of Northampton in the aforesaid County of Northampton or elsewhere which the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the aforesaid Town of Northampton or their Predecessors by whatsoever Name or Names or by whatsoever Incorporation or Incorporations or whether incorporated or not have heretofore of right and lawfully had held and enjoyed by Virtue of any Letters Patents or Grants to them by us or any of our Progenitors heretofore made or granted or by any lawful Custom Prescription or Usage or by any other lawful means whatsoever AND ALSO Grant of Waste Lands. all and singular wastes void Soils Purprestures and Improvements within the Town and Liberties of the same being to have hold and enjoy the same Lands Tenements and Hereditaments called Chamber Lands and Wastes void Soils Purprestures and Improvements and other the Premises to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors for ever Yielding therefore yearly to us our Heirs and Successors such the same of such Sort and in all Points alike Rents Services and Demands whatsoever which to us or our Progenitors for the same Premises before time have been due paid or answered and no others all which Things we will and by these Presents command to be kept inviolably AND WHEREAS we are credibly informed that the Mayor of the aforesaid Town of Northampton and his Predecessors by whatever Names they were called or have been incorporated from the Time whereof the Memory of Man is not to the contrary have used and YET\* DO USE to take Recognizances between Merchant and Merchant and to make Execution thereof according to the form of the Statute of Merchants and the Statute of Acton Burnell in that Case made

Power to take Statute Recognizances between Merchant and Merchant.

\* Tenth skin.

and provided we therefore willing that the ancient Custom so as aforesaid in the same Town used be from henceforth for ever continued in the same Town of our especial Grace and of our certain Knowledge and meer Motion for us our Heirs and Successors do by these Presents grant ratify and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northamton aforesaid and their Successors which for the time shall be from henceforth for ever may have according to the Custom aforesaid full power and authority to take all whatsoever Recognizances between Merchant and Merchant and to make Execution thereof according to the form and effect of the aforesaid Statute of Merchant and the aforesaid Statute of Acton Burnell in that Case made and provided AND FURTHER of our abundant Grace we do by these Presents assign nominate appoint and make our beloved John Jeyes now public Clerk of the Town aforesaid called the Town Clerk to the first and new Clerk of us our Heirs and Successors to take and write the aforesaid Recognizances according to the form and effect of the Statute aforesaid willing that the same John Jeyes shall be and continue in the same Office of publick Clerk of the same Town from the making of these Presents until the Day of the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel if he shall so long live and so long as he shall behave himself well in that Office and from the same feast until some other person fit for it shall be nominated and elected and sworn to that Office according to the Custom in the same Town used AND FURTHER we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors

Town Clerk.

Election of  
Town Clerk.

that the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the time being and such Burgesses who have been or have exercised the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid in Manner herein before mentioned or hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayor of the Town aforesaid according to the Custom in the same Town used or the major part of the same yearly shall elect nominate assign constitute and make within ten Days next following the aforesaid first Day of August whatsoever fit Man to them shall seem to be good to be the Public Clerk or Prothonotary called Town Clerk of the Town aforesaid and that the Public Clerk or Prothonotary of the Town for the time being so as aforesaid elected nominated assigned constituted and made from time to

time and at all times shall continue our Clerk and of our Heirs and Successors to take the aforesaid Recognizances according to the form of the Statute in that Case made and provided and him and every public Clerk or Prothonotary of the Town aforesaid so from time to time elected nominated assigned constituted and made we do for us our Heirs and Successors by these Presents create make and constitute our Clerk and of our Heirs and Successors to take and write the aforesaid Recognizances according to the Form and Effect of the Statutes aforesaid  
MOREOVER we will and of our especial Grace and of our certain Knowledge and meer Motion for us our Heirs and Successors do give grant and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors that they for ever may have these nine fairs or Marts within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties of the same in every Year severally in Manner and Form following to be holden viz. that the said Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may have and hold one fair or Mart of the said fairs or Marts at the said Town of Northampton in every Year for ever on the twenty eighth Day of february the fifth day of April the fourth Day of May the nineteenth Day of June the fifth day of August the twenty sixth Day of August the nineteenth Day of September the twenty eighth Day of November and the nineteenth Day of December and the Day preceding and the Day next following each and every of the said fair Days in every Year AND ALSO of our Grace aforesaid for us our Heirs and Successors we do give grant ratify and confirm unto the said Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors that they may have and hold and have Power to have and hold within the Town aforesaid like as heretofore the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the said Town have been accustomed to have and hold a free Market on every Wednesday Friday and Saturday in every Week through the Year for ever with Tollage and all Liberties Courts of Pipowder and free Customs to such fairs Marts and Markets pertaining or belonging yet so as the aforesaid fairs Marts and Markets be not to the Hurt of other neighbouring Markets Fairs or Marts Wherefore We Will and firmly command for us our Heirs and Successors that the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses and their Successors for ever may have and hold the aforesaid fairs and Marts at the Town of

Grant of nine  
Fairs.

Three Market  
Days.

Northampton aforesaid or within the Liberties of the same in every year and those Markets on those Days in every week as beforesaid for ever and that they may have levy and take in all fairs Marts and Markets aforesaid such reasonable toll or Tolls or Tollage for Beasts Chattels and other Things sold and bought in fairs and MARKETS\* aforesaid as lawfully and of right is had taken or levied in any Town Borough or City in the County of Northampton or as they or their Predecessors by whatsoever Name or Names or by whatsoever Title of Incorporation known or incorporated or whether they were incorporated or not have been at any time heretofore accustomed lawfully to take and levy WE Will also and grant and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that they have hold use and enjoy for ever all the Liberties free Customs Privileges and Quittances aforesaid according to the Tenor and Effect of these our Letters Patent without any Let or Hindrance of us our Heirs or Successors whatsoever being unwilling that the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid or any of them or any one of the Burgesses of the Town aforesaid by Reason of the Premises or any of them be disturbed molested vexed burthened or any wise disturbed by us or by our Heirs Justices Sheriffs Escheators or other Bailiffs or Ministers of us our Heirs or Successors whatsoever AND FURTHER We Will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do grant and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and freemen of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors be not put nor any of them be put or impanelled to appear in any Appeals Juries Assizes Recognizances or Inquisitions whatsoever before us our Heirs and Successors their Justices assigned to take the Assizes or Writs of Nisi Prius or to hear or determine of Treason felonies or other Misdemeanors or of the Peace within our County of Northampton or before our Heirs or Successors their Commissioners of Sewers or other Commissioners whatsoever or before Escheators or other Commissioners assigned to enquire of Matters belonging to the Office of Escheators or before any other Justices Sheriffs Escheators Bailiffs Officers and Ministers

*Free Customs  
and Privileges.*

*Freemen not to  
be impaneled  
before Country  
Justices unless  
the King be  
Party.*

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• Eleventh skin.

of us our Heirs or Successors without the aforesaid Town of Northampton or the Liberties of the same nor shall they or any of them forfeit any Amerciament to us our Heirs or Successors on that Account in any wise therefore but be thereof quit and discharged and every of them be and shall be from time to time for ever quit and discharged unless those Juries Assize Pleas or Inquisitions concern us our Heirs or Successors AND MOREOVER We Will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors that if any Person or Persons being a Burgess or freeman of the same Town for the time being shall be lawfully nominated and elected according to the Manner and form in this present Charter directed to bear or exercise any Office or Place in the same Town and such Person or Persons having due knowledge and notice of such Election had and made shall refuse and deny to accept or exercise the Office or Place Offices or Places unto which he or they shall be nominated or elected that then and so often it may and shall be lawful for the Mayor and such Burgesses who have been Mayors of the Town aforesaid for the time being and the forty eight Burgesses commonly called the Company of eight and forty or the major part of them to tax and impose reasonable fines and Amerciaments upon such refuser or refusers as to the same or to the major part of the same shall seem to be reasonable to the Use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses aforesaid and the same to sue for and recover by Action of Debt in any of our Courts at Westminster AND FURTHER We Will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors that if any one or more of the Members of the said Corporation shall at any time or times hereafter neglect or refuse to attend at any Assembly or Assemblies of the said Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses to be hereafter from time to time held by Virtue of these Presents for the transacting the Business and Affairs of them the said Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and having had due Knowledge and Notice of such Assembly or Assemblies and not assigning or causing to be assigned to the Mayor and Justices or any three of them for the time being at the said Assembly a good and sufficient Cause or Causes for their non-attendance it shall

Fines for  
non-acceptance  
of Corporate  
Offices.

Fines on the  
Members for  
not attending  
Assemblies.

and may be lawful AND We do hereby authorise impower and command the Mayor and Justices of the said Town or any three of them to inflict and impose a reasonable fine or fines on such Member or Members so absenting himself or themselves as aforesaid not exceeding twenty Shillings nor less than six Shillings and eightpence of lawful Money of Great Britain to be forfeited to the Use of us our Heirs and Successors and to be levied and recovered by Procesis from our Court of Exchequer according to the Course and Custom of our said Court and as any other fines set lost imposed and forfeited to the Use of us our Heirs or Successors by any Law Custom Use or Prescription whatsoever are or may be levied and recovered AND MOREOVER We Will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do give and grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors special License Power and Authority to have purchase receive and posseſſ to them and their Successors for ever Manors Messuages Lands Tenements Meadows Pastures fleadings Woods Underwoods Rectories Tithes Rents Reversions and other Hereditaments whatsoever as well of us our Heirs and Successors as of any other Persons whatsoever so as the same Manors Messuages Lands Tenements and other Hereditaments do not in the Whole exceed the clear yearly value of fifty pounds above all Charges and Reprisals the Statute for not putting of Lands or Tenements in Mortmain or any other Statute Act Ordinance or Proviso heretofore had made ordained or provided or any other Thing Cause or Matter whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding WE give also and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do grant to any whatsoever Subject to us our Heirs or Successors special License full Power and Authority that they or any of them may and can lawfully and without any Danger give grant sell devise or alien any Manors Messuages Lands Tenements or other Hereditaments whatsoever to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors so as aforesaid all the Manors Messuages Land TENEMENTS\* AND OTHER HEREDITAMENTs so to the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors to be as aforesaid given granted aliened or devised do not in the whole exceed the clear yearly Value or

Power to  
purchase Lands,  
&c., not  
exceeding £50  
a year.

May take  
Lands, &c., by  
Devise &c.,  
not exceeding  
£50 a year.

Rent of fifty pounds besides all Charges and Reprisals the Statute for not letting of Lands or Tenements in Mortmain or any other Thing Cause or Matter whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding AND FURTHER of our like special Grace and of our certain Knowledge and meer Motion We do for us our Heirs and Successors give grant and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors all and singular the Letters Patent Charters and Confirmations of whatsoever our dearest Progenitors and Ancestors to the same Mayors Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors by whatsoever Name or Names of Incorporation before times made granted and confirmed and all and singular Gifts Grants Confirmations Restitutions Customs Ordinances Explanations Articles and all other Things whatsoever in whatever Letters Patents or Charters of whomsoever our Progenitors or Ancestors Kings or Queens of England and also all and singular the Things in the said Letters Patents Charters Grants Confirmations or in any of them contained recited specified confirmed or explained and all and singular the Jurisdictions Authorities Privileges Liberties franchises Quittances Immunities ffree Customs and also all and singular Manors Lands Tenements Purprestures ffree Piscaries ffishings and Hereditaments whatsoever which the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid or their Predecessors by the Name of the Burgeises of the Town of Northampton or by the Name of the Burgeises of Northampton or by the Name of the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of Northampton or by the Name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton or by any other Name whatsoever by reason or force of any Letters Patents Charters or Confirmations of any of our Progenitors Predecessors and Ancestors heretofore Kings and Queens of England at any time or times have had or reasonably have used or exercised We hold firm and good and for us our Heirs and Successors as much as in us is We accept and approve and all and singular the same to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid by the Tenor of these Presents We do ratify and confirm To have hold enjoy and exercise all and singular the Premises to the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors for ever as fully freely and entirely and in as ample Confirmation of  
all former  
Grants.

Manner and Form as if they had been severally singularly and particularly in these Presents expressed named declared and recited Yielding therefore to us our Heirs and Successors all such the same such kind and in all points alike Rents Services and Demands whatsoever which to us our Progenitors or Ancestors have heretofore been due paid or answered for the same Premises and no other nor more WE Will moreover and of our special Grace for us our Heirs or Successors Do grant that to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors all and singular their Authorities Jurisdictions Liberties Privileges franchises Quittances Immunities and ffree Customs be restored and the same to them and their Successors We do restore by these Presents as fully and perfectly as they or their Predecessors in any the Days of us or any of our Progenitors Ancestors or Predecessors heretofore Kings and Queens of England have freely fully and beneficially had exercised used or enjoyed or ought to have exercise enjoy or use the same We Will also by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors and of our special grace do grant that although the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid have not hitherto used but perhaps hve abused some one or more of the Authorities Jurisdictions Liberties Privileges franchises Immunities Quittances and ffree Customs in the aforesaid Letters Patents and Charters or in any part thereof contained or any other their Customs on any Case Emergent yet they the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors the same their Authorities Jurisdictions Liberties Privileges franchises Immunities Quittances and ffree Customs whatsoever totally disused or abused and every of them from henceforth fully may enjoy and use without let or hindrance of us our Heirs or Successors Justices Sheriffs Coroners Escheators or any other Bailiffs or Ministers whatsoever of us our Heirs or Successors any Cause Matter or Thing whatsoever in time past had made and provided to the contrary thereof notwithstanding AND FURTHER We Will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors We ordain and strictly command that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses Recorder Deputy Recorder Common Clerk and all other Officers and Ministers of our Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Deputies and also all Justices of our Peace and of

Mayor, Bailiffs,  
Burgesses,  
Recorder, Dep-  
uty Recorder,  
Town Clerk,  
&c., to take  
Oaths of  
Supremacy and  
Allegiance.

our Heirs and Successors within the Town aforesaid in or by these our Letters Patent now nominated or by Virtue or according to the Tenor of the same Letters Patent or of any other Letters Patents heretofore made or hereafter to be nominated elected or constituted before they be admitted or any ways in this behalf intermeddle or any of them respectively do intermeddle with the Execution or Exercise of the Office or Offices Place or Places to which they are now as aforesaid respectively nominated appointed or constituted or hereafter shall be in Form aforesaid nominated elected and constituted they and every of them shall take as well the corporal Oath commonly called the Oath of Allegiance as also the Corporal Oath called the Oath of Supremacy upon the Holy Gospel of God before such Person or Persons as by the Law and Statutes of this Kingdom of England are at present appointed and assigned or hereafter to be assigned or appointed for to give and Administer such Oaths AND FURTHER We Will and do declare our Royal Mind That no Recorder Deputy Recorder or Town Clerk of the Town aforesaid hereafter to be elected or appointed do intermeddle in such Office or Offices or any of them respectively before they and every of them be respectively allowed of by us our Heirs or Successors any Thing in these Presents or any other Thing Cause or Matter whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding For as much as express mention &c IN WITNESS whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent WITNESS ourself at Westminster the second Day of April in the thirty sixth Year of our Reign

BY A WRIT OF PRIVY SEAL

Recorder, Deputy Recorder,  
and Town Clerk  
to be approved  
by the King.

WILMOT

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in English, on twelve skins of parchment, 28 inches wide, and 22 inches deep.

Each skin is ornamented with heraldic and floral designs all printed from copper plates. The first skin is most highly ornamented, and within the initial G is a portrait of the head and shoulders of the King, in full flowing wig, with chain of a knight of the garter round his neck.

Each skin bears an Inland Revenue stamp of the value of forty shillings.

The great seal of England in green wax, somewhat mutilated, remains attached to a green and white cord.

On the back it is indorsed:—

"26"  
"Northampton New Charter."

## Letters Patent of 8th George IV.

30TH AUGUST, 1827.

THIS grant is a license from the Crown to the Corporation, enabling them to exchange lands situate in the Parish of Saint Giles, for lands situate in Cotton End. It appears to be the only grant of the kind made to the town.

### *Abbreviated Transcript.*

GEORGE THE FOURTH by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come Greeting WHEREAS the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of Northampton have humbly represented to us THAT the town of Northampton is an ancient Borough and by virtue of the Charter of 36th George III [hereinbefore printed at page 154] the Petitioners are a Corporation and are possessed of a piece of land called the Long Close containing 4 acres and 3 roods late in the tenure of the Rev. John Watts And also a piece of land called the Great Close containing 27 acres and 26 perches late in tenure of Robert Norman divided into two parts the South containing about 16 acres late in the tenure of William Brown and the North containing about 11 acres late in the tenure of Moses Jeffery which pieces of Land are part of the Chamber Lands belonging to the Petitioners situate in Cotton End in the Parish of Hardington and County of Northampton and contain in the whole 31 acres 3 roods and 26 perches and abut on the Northampton Turnpike

Road on the East THAT John Thomas Butt of Nowhall in the County of Wilts Esquire is possessed in trust for Edward Bouverie and Catharine his wife of two closes situate in the Parish of Saint Giles and Town of Northampton containing respectively 14 acres 2 roods and 22 perches and 10 acres and 11 perches formerly in the occupation of John Duckley and late of John Odell and William Odell Samuel Simons and Edward Peach and the piece of land called Barnes Meadow containing 10 acres and 11 perches formerly in the occupation of William Gutton afterwards of John Odell and then of Charles Whitworth THAT the Petitioners are satisfied that the lands situate in Cotton End and the lands situate in Saint Giles Parish are equal in value THAT the said John Thomas Butt hath proposed to the Petitioners to convey to them the lands in Saint Giles Parish in exchange for the lands in Cotton End AND THAT the Petitioners under the said Charter are entitled to purchase lands not exceeding the yearly value of fifty pounds and the lands so proposed to be taken in exchange are above such value THE Petitioners therefore most humbly pray us that we would be pleased to grant them our Royal License in Mortmain to take a conveyance of the lands in the Parish of Saint Giles in exchange for the lands in Cotton End KNOW YE therefore that we of our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion HAVE given and granted and DO give and grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton our special license to accept a conveyance of the lands in the Parish of Saint Giles TO HOLD the same to the use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors for ever IN WITNESS whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent WITNESS ourself at our Palace at Westminster the thirtieth day of August in the eighth year of our reign

By writ of Privy Seal

SCOTT

This document, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in English, on one skin, 25 inches wide and 19 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches deep; ornamented with portrait of the King, shields of arms, and other devices. An Inland Revenue stamp of the value of £30 is impressed on the margin.

The whole of the great seal in yellow wax, in fair condition,  
remains attached in a tin box.

It is indorsed:—

"The Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses  
"of the Town of Northampton  
"License in Mortmain to take  
"Lands in Exchange."

## 5th & 6th William IV. c. 76.

9TH SEPTEMBER, 1835.

An Act to provide for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations  
in England and Wales.

THIS act was passed to provide for the rule and government  
of all cities and boroughs mentioned in the schedule thereto,  
and for the absolute repeal of all grants, charters, or letters  
patent which were inconsistent with the act.

Under this statute the government of the town was entirely  
remodelled, many of the old privileges being taken away and  
many new ones granted.

Northampton is mentioned in the schedule to the act as a  
corporate body, styled "The Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of  
"Northampton," with three wards, six aldermen, and eighteen  
councillors, and as being one of the boroughs to have a separate  
Commission of the peace.

## Letters Patent of 6th William IV.

5TH MARCH, 1836.

THIS is the first separate commission of the peace appointing justices to act for the borough; previous to this time the justices were appointed by the general letters patent or charters granted to the corporation. This grant was made in conformity with the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, sec. 98.

### *Transcript.*

WILLIAM THE FOURTH by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith To our beloved and faithful the Mayor of the Borough of Northampton and the Mayor of the said borough for the time being Marmaduke Newby Malster Daniel Hewlett George Peach and George Baker Gentlemen Henry Lenton Stockburn Malster<sup>190</sup> and George Buxton Gentleman Greeting KNOW YE that we have assigned you and every of you jointly and severally our Justices to keep our Peace in and throughout the Borough of Northampton and to keep and cause to be kept all Ordinances and Statutes made for the Good of our Peace and for the Conservation of the same and for the quiet rule and government of our People in all and every the Articles thereof in the said Borough according to the form and effect of the same And to chastise and punish all persons that offend against the form of these Ordinances or Statutes or any of them in the aforesaid Borough as it ought to be done according to the form of these Ordinances and Statutes And to cause to come before you or any of you all those who to any one or more of our People concerning their bodies or the

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<sup>190</sup> Marmaduke Newby was mayor of the town in 1812-3. Daniel Hewlett in 1826-7, George Peach in 1837-8, and 1838-9, and Henry Lenton Stockburn in 1839-1. Marmaduke Newby was one of the bailiffs in 1808-9, Daniel Hewlett in 1816-7, and Henry Lenton Stockburn in 1825-6.

firing of their Houses have used threats to find sufficient security for the Peace or their good Behaviour towards us and our People And if they shall refuse to find such security then them in our Prisons until they shall find such security to cause to be safely kept AND THEREFORE WE COMMAND YOU that you diligently apply yourself to the keeping our Peace Ordinance Statutes and all and singular other the Premises and perform and fulfil the same in form aforesaid doing therein what to Justice appertaineth according to the Laws and Customs of England IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the fifth day of March in the sixth year of Our Reign

EDMUND

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in English on a plain skin of parchment, 24 inches wide and 20 inches deep.

The great seal in yellow wax, somewhat broken, remains attached.

On the back is written:—

“ Northampton  
“ Commission of the Peace ”

This grant is contained in a box of contemporary date, bound in red leather, tooled with gold.

## Letters Patent of 6th William IV.

27TH MAY, 1836.

IN consequence of the Municipal Corporations' Act, 1835, it became necessary that the Corporation should obtain a new grant to enable them to hold a separate court of quarter sessions in the borough for the trial of prisoners.

Petition was therefore made to the King, and the new grant was accordingly obtained.

The fees paid in passing this grant under the great seal were as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Secretary of State's Office ...	...	...	0 0 0
Attorney General's Office	...	...	9 16 0
Signet Office	...	...	10 6 6
Privy Seal Office	...	...	2 8 0
Crown Office	...	...	15 8 6
Chief Clerk for passing the Patent (remitted)	..	..	0 0 0
Messengers, &c.	...	...	0 10 6
	<hr/>		
	£38 9 6		

*Transcript.*

WILLIAM THE FOURTH BY THE GRACE OF GOD of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith To our Trusty and Welbeloved The Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON and to the Inhabitants of the said Borough and to all Others whom it may concern Greeting WHEREAS the Council of the said Borough has pursuant to the provisions of an Act passed in the sixth year of our Reign entitled "An Act to provide for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in England and Wales" signified by Petition to Us in our Council the desire of the Council of the said Borough that a Separate Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace shall continue to be holden in and for the said Borough Now KNOW YE that We having taken the Matter of the said Petition into our Consideration and being above all things anxious to promote the due administrattion of Justice have thought fit to comply with the said Petition And we therefore do hereby grant unto the said Borough that a Separate Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace shall henceforth continue to be holden in and for such Borough according to the Provisions of the said Act AND FURTHER know ye that We do assign the Recorder for the time being of the said Borough our Justice to enquire the Truth more fully by the Oath of good and lawful Men of the aforesaid Borough by whom the Truth of the Matter shall be better known of all and all Manner of Felonies and Misdemeanors and of all and singular other crimes and offences of which Justices of our

Peace may or ought lawfully to enquire by whomsoever or after what manner soever in the said Borough done or perpetrated or which shall happen to be there done or attempted and of all and singular Articles and Circumstances and all other things whatsoever that concern the Premises or any of them by whomsoever and after what manner soever in our aforesaid Borough done or perpetrated or which hereafter shall there happen to be done or attempted in what manner soever And to inspect all Indictments whatsoever so before him the said Recorder taken or to be taken or before others late our Justices of the Peace in the aforesaid Borough made or taken and not yet determined and to make and continue Processes thereupon against all and singular the Persons so Indicted or who before the said Recorder hereafter shall happen to be Indicted until they can be taken surrender themselves or be outlawed And to hear and determine all and singular the Felonies Misdemeanors and offences aforesaid and all and singular other the premises according to the Laws and Statutes of England as in the like case it has been accustomed or ought to be done before and by our Courts of Quarter Sessions in England And the same Offenders and every of them for their Offences by Fines Ransoms Amerciaments Forfeitures and other means as according to the Law and Custom of England or form of the Ordinances and Statutes aforesaid it has been accustomed or ought to be done to chastize and punish PROVIDED ALWAYS that if a case of difficulty upon the determination of any of the Premises shall happen to arise before the said Recorder for the time being then Judgement shall in nowise be given thereon before him unless in the presence of one of our Justices of the one or other Bench or of one of our Justices appointed to hold the Assizes in the County of Northampton AND therefore We command the said Recorder for the time being that to keeping the Peace Ordinances Statutes and all and singular other the Premises he diligently apply himself And that at certain days and places which he shall appoint for those purposes into the Premises he make enquiry and all and singular the Premises hear and determine and perform and fulfil them in the aforesaid form doing therein what to Justice appertains according to the Law and Custom of England Saving unto Us the Amerciaments and other things to Us therefrom belonging AND We command by the tenor of these Presents the Proper

Officers of the aforesaid Borough that at certain days and places which the said Recorder shall make known to them they cause to come before him the said Recorder so many and such good and lawful Men of the said Borough by whom the Truth of the Matter in the said Premises shall be the better known and enquired into IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent WITNESS Ourself at Westminster the twenty seventh day of May in the sixth year of our Reign

BY WRIT OF PRIVY SEAL

EDMUND

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in English on one skin of parchment, 28 inches wide and 21 inches deep.

It is ornamented with portraits of the King and Queen, the royal arms, and other designs, printed from copper plates.

Fragments of the great seal, in yellow wax, inclosed in a tin box, remains attached to the red cord.

It is contained in a leather covered box, similar to that containing the previous grant.

## Letters Patent of 1st Victoria.

17TH NOVEMBER, 1837.

THIS grant is drawn on the same lines as the previous commission of the peace, the same magistrates are mentioned, and in addition thirty one new names, which were no doubt added at various ways.

*Transcript.*

VICTORIA by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith To our beloved and faithful the Mayor of the Borough of North-

ampton [and so forth, repeating the letters patent of the 6th William IV., hereinbefore printed on page 187.] WITNESS Ourself at Westminster the seventeenth day of November in the first year of our Reign

Edmunds

In the margin of this document are written the following additional names:—

William Williams Currier Thomas Sharp Civil Engineer Thomas Hagger Merchant George Armfield Chemist Thomas Cooke Esquire John Marshall Grocer Francis Parker Edward Harrison Barwell William Hollis John Groom William Strong George Barry Esquires William Hensman Grocer William Roberts Ironfounder Edmund Francis Law Architect William Harrison Barwell John Phipps James Berridge Norman Draper Mark Dorman Stationer James Barry Chemist Pickering Phipps Perry Miller William Adkins Merchant Thomas Shepard Leather Seller Joseph Gurney William Hill William Jones Henry Marshall Henry Mobbs William John Peirce Richard Turner James Wetherell Esquires<sup>191</sup>

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in English on a plain skin of parchment, 23 inches wide and 18 inches deep.

The great seal of England, encased in leather, is attached.

On the back is written:—

"Northampton."

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<sup>191</sup> William Williams was mayor of the town in 1840-1, and 1853-4; Thomas Sharp in 1839-40, and 1846-7; Thomas Hagger in 1838-9 and 1851-2; John Marshall in 1828-9, 1829-30; Francis Parker in 1849-50, and 1850-1; Edward Harris Barwell in 1843-4, 1843-4, 1844-5; John Groom in 1845-6; William Hensman in 1857-8; William Roberts in 1858-9; Edmund Francis Law in 1859-60; John Phipps in 1831-2; James Berridge Norman in 1867-8; Mark Dorman in 1863-4; James Barry in 1865-6, and 1888-9; Pickering Phipps Perry in 1870-1; William Adkins in 1869-70, and 1874-5; Joseph Gurney in 1875-6, and 1879-80; William Jones in 1872-3; Henry Marshall in 1871-2; William John Peirce in 1881-2; and Richard Turner in 1873-4.

## Letters Patent of 41st Victoria.

1ST MARCH, 1878.

THE present borough magistrates sit by virtue of this commission, which is drawn in a somewhat different manner from the preceding commissions, the mayor of the town is not mentioned by name, and the magistrates' names are placed in a schedule in order of seniority.

### *Transcript.*

VICTORIA BY THE GRACE OF GOD of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith To the Mayor of the Borough of Northampton now and for the time being and the persons named in the Schedule hereto GREETING KNOW YE that We have assigned you and every of you jointly and severally Our Justices to keep Our Peace in and throughout the said Borough of Northampton and to keep and cause to be kept all Ordinances and Statutes made for the good of Our Peace and for the conservation of the same and for the quiet rule and government of Our People in all and every the articles thereof in the said Borough according to the Form and Effect of the same and to chastise and punish all persons that offend against the form of those Ordinances or Statutes or any of them in the aforesaid Borough as it ought to be done according to the form of those Ordinances and Statutes and to cause to come before you or any of you all those who to any one or more of Our People concerning their Bodies or the firing of their houses have used threats to find sufficient security for the Peace or their good behaviour towards Us and Our People and if they shall refuse to find such security then them in Our Prisons until they shall find such security to cause to be safely kept AND therefore We Command you that you diligently apply yourselves to the keeping Our Peace Ordinances Statutes and all and singular other the premises and perform and fulfil the same in form aforesaid doing therein what to Justice appertains

according to the Laws and Customs of England IN WITNESS  
whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent  
WITNESS Ourself at Westminster the first day of March in the  
forty first year of Our Reign

C. ROMILLY

SCHEDULE.

Francis Parker—William Hensman—William Williams—Edmund Francis Law—John Phipps—James Berridge Norman—James Barry Pickering Phipps Perry—William Adkins—Thomas Shepard—Joseph Gurney—William Hill—William Jones—Henry Marshall—William Mills—William Coulson—William Griffiths Hollis—Robert Derby—Richard Cleaver—Moses Philip Mansfield—Thomas Adams—Frederick Covington—George Minards Tebbutt—Daniel Stanton—Frederick George Adnitt—John Bingley—Robert Brice—The Judge of the County Court of Northamptonshire holden at Northampton for the time being—Henry Martin—Henry Edward Randall—Henry Butterfield—Samuel Smith Campion—

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are printed in English on one skin of parchment, 22½ inches wide, and 17½ inches deep.

This document, with the exception of the name of the borough, the date, and the schedule, is entirely printed. The royal arms are also printed in the centre of the first line.

The great seal is impressed on a wafer in the left hand upper corner.

It is indorsed:—

"Borough of Northampton.  
"COMMISSION of PEACE."

## The Northampton Toll Cause.

LANCUM, PLAINTIFF, AGAINST LOVELL, DEFENDANT.

Easter Term 1st William IV., to Michaelmas Term, 4th William IV.

This was an action brought by Mr. Lancum against Mr. Lovell, to recover two small sums of money—one, the sum of fourpence, for a toll claimed for the entry of a waggon into the town of Northampton, and the exit of the wagon with a load;—the other, the sum of eightpence, which was claimed for a market toll, a penny per beast for beasts bought by the defendant in the market of Northampton.

This cause was tried before the Lord Chief Justice Tindal and a Special Jury at the Guildhall, in the City of London, commencing the 21st February, 1832.

The case was heard at great length, and evidence of all kind was taken. Domesday Book, Pipe Rolls, Hundred Rolls, Charters, Acts of Parliament, Leases, Tables of Tolls; the Town Clerk, Solicitors, Tolls Collectors, Farmers, Carriers, and Butchers were alike examined. The counsel employed were eminent, and the arguments used learned, and the summing up concise and brilliant.

Ultimately the jury found a verdict for the Plaintiff on both counts, with damages of one shilling.

On the 19th April, 1832, a new trial was moved for, on the ground of the admission of improper evidence; and the rule for the new trial was granted. On the 10th of May, 1832, cause was shown why the new trial should not be granted. The question was argued at great length, and for many days, and on the 21st January, 1833, Mr. Justice Park gave judgment that the rule for the new trial should be made absolute.

The cause again came before the Court on the 5th November, 1833, when counsel stated that the rule for a new trial had not been drawn up, but that the Defendant had in the meantime died. Nine days later Lord Chief Justice Tindal gave judgment that the rule for a new trial should be discharged, remarking that they "had better choose a younger defendant next time," as he thought "the old gentleman did quite right to withdraw himself."

Thus this memorable trial came to an end.



## Liber Custumarum Villæ Norhamptoniæ.

*Circa 1460.*

THIS volume containing the customs of the town of Northampton, is the most quaint and valuable of all the borough records. Indeed it is a treasure such as few English boroughs possess.

It was compiled about the middle of the fifteenth century by an unknown hand, and treats of the customs, usages, evidences, and laws then existing in the town, to which were added in subsequent times later rules and decisions. The compilation was evidently most carefully made for the purpose of preserving the records and law precedents of the borough in accessible form, and it gives us the only knowledge we possess of much that is contained in its pages. The original documents from which the book was first compiled have been destroyed, some probably intentionally as being of no further use after the clerky transcript was made about 1460, some probably in the Great Fire of 1675, when the Guild Hall was partially burnt, and many of the Corporation records were lost. The LIBER CUSTUMARUM, however, was fortunately saved intact.

The transcript is beautifully executed. The book consists of 148 leaves of fine vellum,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The initials are mostly rubricated, but many of the capitals at the commencement of the paragraphs have not been filled in. Both the black and red inks are in good condition. The appearance of the last page indicates that after being written, the manuscript was kept unbound for some years, and the binding itself is evidently some thirty or forty years later than the handwriting. It is late fifteenth or early sixteenth century work. The boards are of oak, and the vellum leaves are sewn round four leather bands which pass twice through the boards to afford a secure hold. The boards are covered with calf. There are four square plates of brass at the corners of each cover, and a lozenge of brass is affixed in the centre; and in the middle of each of the ten brass plates is a small boss for ornamentation. Attached to

the front cover by leather hinges were two brass clasps, of which, however, only the lower now remains. The covers are stamped, front and back, with a double running pattern, made up of different devices in small panels—two birds like swans addorsed, with wings disclosed; a creature like a large fish; a fleur de lis; an insect with five wings disclosed on each side; and so on.

The condition of the book is excellent, nearly every letter being still perfectly legible, but there are one or two slight imperfections such as the mutilation of a few pages.

Of the character of the contents of the book it is not necessary here to speak. On the fly-leaves have been written a few common law forms, two in Latin and two in mediæval English. Then follow some letters patent from the monarch to the mayor, leading up to the table of contents of the volume as originally transcribed. This table commences :

Hic incipit tabulam debet  
vsagez et Customez de Norhampton.

Fifty-eight headings are given in this table, all in English. As the chapters themselves end on the verso of folio 26, it is at once apparent that the table is but a faint indication of the contents of the book, which comprise various ordinances, acts of parliament, charters, and other documents. The whole is written indifferently in contracted Latin, Norman-French, and mediæval English.

# Liber Custumarum Ville Norhamptonice.

[FORM OF WRIT OF SUPERSEDEAS.]

Forma ad faciend suspedias  
p Accōe tñsg<sup>r</sup> & contemp<sup>r</sup>

Jobes Asteley Maior Ville  
Norht ac Justic<sup>r</sup> ad pacem dñi  
Regis infra eandm confuande  
Atlign baltis eiusdm & eoꝝ  
cuilibz Saltm Quia Edmuñd  
Preston harp de Norht capl &  
in prisiona ibm sub custodia  
vrā detenl existit ad respon-  
dende tam dño Regi qm Thome  
Kendale taillo' &c de ptito  
tranigr<sup>r</sup> & contemp<sup>r</sup> contra  
formam statuti de sūient edit ac  
iam p eo q<sup>a</sup> ibm Edmundus  
inuenit coram me sufficient  
secur<sup>r</sup> eslēnde coram nobis ad  
px husteng ibm tenende &c ad  
respondende tam dñi Regi qm  
þfat Thom Kendale de þmills  
Ideo ex pte dñi Regis vobis &  
al<sup>r</sup> vrm mando q<sup>a</sup> þfat Edm  
Aprisona si ea de causa & non

Form for making supersedeas<sup>102</sup> [Folio 11.]  
for an action of trespass and con-  
tempt

John Asteley<sup>103</sup> Mayor of the  
town of Northampton and a  
Justice appointed to keep the  
peace of our lord the King within  
the same to the bailiffs of the  
same and each one of them Greet-  
ing Whereas Edmund Preston  
Harper<sup>104[?]</sup> of Northampton has  
been taken and remains detained  
in prison there in your custody to  
answer as well our lord the King  
as Thomas Kendale tailor &c on  
a plea of trespass and contempt  
contrary to the form of the statute  
made concerning serving-men and  
forasmuch as the same Edmund  
has found before me sufficient  
security for appearing before us  
at the next hustings there to be  
held etc to answer as well our  
lord the King as the aforesaid

<sup>102</sup> This is a writ that lies in certain cases, and signifies in general a command to stay some ordinary proceedings at law, on good cause shown, which ought otherwise to proceed.

<sup>103</sup> John Asteley was mayor of the town in 1488-9.

<sup>104</sup> Edmund Preston Harper cannot all be the man's name. No double Christian names were in existence at that date. Probably he was a harper by trade.

alia detin sine dilacōe delibar  
faciatis Et hoc non omitate &c  
Da<sup>l</sup>

Thomas Kendale concerning the  
premisses Therefore on behalf of  
our lord the King I charge you  
and each of you that if the  
aforesaid Edmund is detained in  
prison for that reason and no  
other you cause him to be set  
free without delay and that you  
do not neglect this &c Given

[FORM OF SUPERSEDEAS.]

N maior ville North ac  
Justic<sup>9</sup> ad pacem dñi Regis infra  
eandm con*u*and Assig*n* battis  
eiuidm & eo*z* cuiilib*z* Salt*m* Quia  
N de N cap*l* & in p*sona* ib*m*  
sub custodia vr*a* detent*e* existit ad  
respondend*e* tam d*ño* Regi q*m*  
Thome hunt &c de plac*o* t*ñ*igre<sup>o</sup>  
et contempt*o* contra formam  
statuti de i*u*ient edit*o* ac iam p  
eo qd id*m* N inuenit coram me  
sufficient secur*o* ellend [cor-]  
am nobis ad px husteng*o* ib*m*  
tenende post f*m* sci hillari px iam  
futur*o* &c

N<sup>105</sup> Mayor of the town of  
Northampton and a Justice ap-  
pointed to keep the peace of our  
lord the King within the same to  
the bailiffs of the same and each  
of them Greeting Whereas N  
of N has been taken and re-  
mains detained in prison there in  
your custody to answer as well  
our lord the King as Thomas  
Hunt etc on a plea of trespass  
and contempt contrary to the  
form of the statute made con-  
cerning serving-men and foras-  
much as the same N has found  
before me sufficient security for  
appearing before us at the next  
hustings there to be held after  
the feast of Saint Hilary next  
ensuing &c

<sup>104</sup> N. or nomen, standing in each case for the name.

## [FORM OF POWER OF ATTORNEY.]

[Folio 1b.]

[T]HE x<sup>th</sup> daie of June the yere of o' lorde god m<sup>l</sup> iiiij<sup>e</sup> iiiij<sup>m</sup> viij<sup>s</sup> [Thursday, 12th June, 1488] J. A. B. of Norhampton &c M<sup>c</sup>haunt of the staple at Calle, haue made. Ordeigned, and subtiltude . C. D. m<sup>c</sup>haunt of the same staple myn Att'ney gyvynge and grauntyng vnto the seide C. D. my full power And auctorite to Receyve ousee Allyeve and delyue all the marchaundise<sup>z</sup> appteigning vnto me now beeyngh w<sup>i</sup>n the Jurisdiccion of the saide staple Or that by me shalbe sente vnto the seide Estaple hereast And the mony growyng of the Sales of the seide m<sup>c</sup>haundise<sup>z</sup> to the seide . C. D. or his Att'ney to Receyve It, to the vse and profite of me Constituante aft the Rule and Ordenaunce of the seid Estaple. Now made or to be made to emplede psue a Reste disreste and in a Reste holde his dettouſs, be fore all man<sup>o</sup> of Juge, and Justice as the seid . C. D. Att'nev aforesaid shalbe thought necessarie and expedient To bynde the seid A. B. for his own, prope maters and cawsis in allman<sup>o</sup>wife To Receive acquite, and gyve acquitaunce suche as shall appteyn To Substitute oon, or moo In his absence And theym and they<sup>r</sup> Power, to revoke, at his pleashe, And gen<sup>r</sup>allye, all other thynge necessarie and behoefull in the þmis<sup>z</sup> To do Sey sped and equite, as fully as yf I the feide . A. B. constituant shuld now doo, yf I were plente in my prope parson, Promytyng the same, A. B. to have and holde serme and aggreable at all Daies, all and ruy thyngh that by the forseide C. D. his Att'ney, Or by his substitute or substitut<sup>z</sup> or eny of theym shalbe doon seid sped and executid in the þmis<sup>z</sup> and in yche of theym And ou that the seyde . A. B. Constituante Wyllyth and grauntythe by this plent entre. That allman<sup>o</sup> of power by hym grauntid to eny man<sup>o</sup> plon before the day of this entre, be as voyde and of non valure ne effecte in enywysse in tyme to come To all and singler the þmis<sup>z</sup> above wretton I haue Setto my Seale &c And at the speciall Instaunce and Requeste of me In so moche as my Seale Is vnknownen to many of you, the worshipfull fr. st. G. mayre of the toun abovesaid hath setto the seal of his office the day and yere Aboveſeide &c

[Folio 2a.]

## [FORM OF RELEASE TO THE BAILIFFS.]

[Folio 5a.]

To the Kyng our liege lorde<sup>196</sup>

Please it your highnes of yo' most noble and habundaunt  
grace to graunte vnto youre trewe and feithfull liege men John Wattes<sup>197</sup>  
And Thomas Bodynghton late Baillifff of your town of Norhampton  
your gracious tres of Prive Seall in form as folowith to be made.  
And the seide late Baillifff shall pray to god for the p̄ieruacoñ of  
your most noble and Royall astate

Henry by the grace of god &c. To the Tresorer and Barons of  
our Escheker grelyng . fforasmoche as the men of the towñ of  
Norhamptoñ ar to vs yerely Charged in the Sum of cxx<sup>ii</sup> of and  
for the fferme of the same towñ . of the which cxx<sup>ii</sup> to vs due as from  
the ffeste of Seint Michell tharchaungell in the seconde yere of o  
Reign vnto the ffeste of Seint Michell tharchaungell then next  
ensuyng . that is to say for a hole yere John Wattes Thoñs Bodynghton  
beyng Baillifff for and by all the seide tyme beyng vppon their  
Accompt of their seide office for the same tyme byn Chargyd vnto us  
At & in our Escheker as in the same our Escheker more pleynly  
doth Appere of Recorde . We of our speciall grace & mere mocion and  
for certain Consideracoñs spēally Mevyng . Pardon remitte & releife  
vnto the seide John Wattes & Thomas Bodynghton late baillifff of  
our seide towñ of Norhamptoñ by what soeū name or names thei or  
eny of theym ben named . xxij<sup>ii</sup> pcell of the seide cxx<sup>ii</sup> for the seide  
tyme . And therefor woll and charge you our seide Barons that ye  
allowe Acquite and discharge the seide late baillifff and eu<sup>y</sup>che of  
them . Ayenste us in theire seide Accompt of the seide . xxij<sup>ii</sup> And for  
eu<sup>y</sup> pcell therof . And that ye surcesse of all man<sup>9</sup> pceiles  
execucionis suyties & demaundes which We haue or may have Ayenste  
theym or eny of theym for the seide xxij<sup>ii</sup> or eny pcell theroff .  
That expresse mencion of the certaynte of the seide Accompt or  
eny other thyng Concernyng the p̄misses heryn be not hadde or  
made or Any Acte ordenaunce prouysyoñ or Restreynte made or  
hadde to the contrary movyng not withstondyng yeueñ.

By the Kyng.

<sup>196</sup> This release appears to have been a temporary relief, and anticipatory of the letters patent of 5th Henry VIII., hereinbefore printed on page 113.

<sup>197</sup> John Wattes and Thomas Bodynghton were bailiffs of the town in 1487.

[LETTERS PATENT FROM THE KING TO THE MAYOR  
CONCERNING THE PEACE OF THE TOWN ]

Trusty and Welbiloued. We grete you wele. Nat doving but that your wisdomes can remembre and wele considre, that the vse and encreceignyng of sad rule and good gou'naunce in eu'y citie and town, surit & principally pleaseth god, establishith parfite reste and tranquillite, noreisitheth and increaseth loue, causith plente and habundance and lawes to haue their due courses, iustice to be indifferently ministred and executed, the vniuersall wele alway inhauncyng and flouryng bi these behalues. And bi the contrary way and vse ensuen comocions striffe debatis pouertie and miserie and many other inconuenience. The peil and daunger whereof must of reason be arrested and leide to the charge of thoo persones, hauyng rule and auctorite where any misgou'naunce be haunted if bi thair omissons and nealigencē thoffendours be suffered, to renne in boldeneſſe vnpunished. And forasmoch as we haue and bere as good mynde and large affecciō to all our true subgette and be desirous of the comon wele of this our reame as eu' did any our noble predeceſſours god be our Juge. Therfore we write vnto you at this tyme, desiring and straitly comāundyng you to endeavour you from hensforth bi yo' best wisdomes and diligencē to see that good rule and ſubſtanciall guyding be firmly had and effectuelly folowed in all places w'in yo' iurisdiccion, hauyng ſuch good and wiſe awarte continually that if any vagabundē riotus or vngodly diſpoſed personnes reſtant or repairing amonſe you preſume or take vpon thaym, to make any embrac̄ies affrayes or debates bi colour or boldeneſſe of lyvereyes or oþerwise or to ſowe any ſeductive langaage arreife any Rumours or forge and contrive newes or titheinge of vs or any estate of this oure land, or of oþer w'oute the the ſame, to abuse and blynde our innocent ſubgette prouokynge and enduying thaym to renne or falle into rebellion and diſobeſſaunce in ſubuersion of all good rule and policie. Ye than faille nat to attach and comitte to ſuer warde w'oute baile or deliuernace, all thoo that ye ſhall fynde gylty or ſuſpect in the þmiffes and to certifie vs thair names w' the ſpiālīte of thair offenisſ. to thentent that we may yeue you for yo' good acquitall our ſpiall thanke and to ſhewe you therupon our furthir pleasur, for thair due and lawful punicion, latyng you witt that if it come to our eeres and pfaite knowledge that ye ſuſtre ſuch myſruled people viyng any unfiſting langage, or reiſing any rumours or offendung in any poynſis abouerehersed, to escape you unpuñiſhed

[Folio 3b.]

contrarie to yo<sup>r</sup> duete both anempst god and vs . We shall so sharply  
 leie it to yo<sup>r</sup> blame and charge w<sup>t</sup> punishment accordyng . as shalbe  
 to the feresfull p̄sident and greuous example of al othir our subgiette  
 and officers disobeisant to execute our like and sp̄ial comauendement  
 hereaftir . Which thinge therfor we aduise you to call and take to hert  
 accordyngly . yeuen vndre our Signet at our Castell of Wyndeſor the  
 vii<sup>th</sup> day of Juyn

[Folio 44.]

[LETTERS PATENT FROM THE KING TO THE MAYOR  
 RESPECTING ARROW MAKERS.]

To our trusty and welbeloued the Mair and Aldermen  
 of or Towne of Norhampton

Henricus dei grā Rex Anglie  
 et franc et Dominus Hibernie  
 dico sibi Simoni Motte . Saltm̄  
 Sciatis qd assignamus te ad tot  
 sagittarios seu fcre sagittař &  
 barbitt ac alios artifices quot  
 p̄fcura itaž que nos infra breue <sup>198</sup>  
 de nouo sieri & ordinari intendim̄  
 necessarij ſunt & oportuni ubi-  
 cumq; inueniri počunt tam infra  
 libertates qm ext̄ arrestand et  
 capiend & eos & eož quem it in  
 opaconib; nr̄is citra <sup>199</sup> facuf dicar  
 sagittar ad vad nra Ciuitate  
 London nobis seruitur ponend  
 seu poni faciend necnon ad  
 huiusmodi sagittas & Maherem̄  
 p eisdem barbitt

Henry by the grace of God  
 King of England and France and  
 Lord of Ireland to his beloved  
 Simon <sup>200</sup> Motte Greeting Know  
 that we have appointed you to  
 arrest and take as many archers  
 or makers of arrows and arrow-  
 heads and other workmen as  
 shall be necessary and qualified  
 for the making of . . . <sup>201</sup> which  
 we have directed in a brief to be  
 made and ordained anew where-  
 soever they can be found as well  
 within the liberties as without  
 and to place or cause to be placed  
 them and every one of them in  
 our service about the making  
 of the said arrows at our wages  
 in the city of London to serve  
 us and moreover to take arrest  
 and provide for arrows of this  
 kind and timber for the same

<sup>198</sup> *Infra breve* may possibly mean *within a short time*.

<sup>199</sup> *Citra* seems corrupt here . it ought to mean *without regard to*.

<sup>200</sup> Simon Motte . No Mayor of this name can be traced , perhaps this Simon Motte was an Alderman or Bailiff .

<sup>201</sup> Perhaps *arrows* .

Sericum ceram plumas & alia  
Stuffura & necessaria quecūq;  
que pte p opatōe pdca<sup>2</sup> videbunt'  
oportuna p denariis n̄is in hac  
pte rōnabilit Soluende capienda  
arrestande & puidende. Et ideo  
tibi p̄cipim<sup>2</sup> qd circa p̄misita dili-  
gent<sup>2</sup> intendas & ea fac<sup>2</sup> &  
exequaris informa pdca<sup>2</sup>. Damus  
autem vnūtiis & singulis vice-  
comitib; Majorib; Balliis ac  
fidelib; legeis ns̄is quo<sup>2</sup> inf'it  
in hac parte tenore plentm firmit<sup>2</sup>  
in mandatis qd tibi in executōne  
p̄misoz intendentis sint obe-  
dientes & auxiliantes in omib;  
ut decet. In cuius rei testimonī  
has tras n̄as fieri fecim<sup>2</sup> patentes  
T me ipo apud Maidston t<sup>2</sup>tio  
die Januarij Anno 2 n̄ quarto.  
p billam Magr ordinatoim ipius  
Regis

Bacheler

arrow-heads silk wax feathers  
and other stuffs and necessaries  
whatsoever which in part shall  
seem suitable for the aforesaid  
work for money of ours in this  
portion to be reasonably paid  
And so we charge you diligently  
to attend to the premisses and do  
them and complete them in the  
form aforesaid But we give to  
all and singular our sheriffs  
mayors bailiffs and faithful lieges  
whom it concerns in this part by  
the tenor of the presents firmly  
in command that they be atten-  
tive obedient and assisting to you  
in the execution of the premisses  
in all things as is fit In testi-  
mony whereof we cause these  
our letters to be made patent  
Witness myself at Maidstone the  
third day of January in the  
fourth year of our reign [Satur-  
day, 3rd January, 1489] By a  
bill of the Master of the Or-  
dinances of the King himself

Bacheler

[Folio 4b.]

[LETTERS PATENT FROM THE KING TO THE MAYOR  
RESPECTING ARROW MAKERS.]

Herri bi the grace of god kyng of Englund and of fraunce and lorde of Irelond. To his welbelouyd Symond Motte<sup>202</sup> gretyng. knowe ye that we haue Assigned the . that asmany arowe makers or makers of arowes . and arowe hedes and other artificers As that for the makynge of our arowes the which We within shorte tyme of newe to be made and ordeyned . we intende . be necessary & be honeable wheresom' e thei may be founde Afele w'in the listees as w'out to be arrested and takeñ them and euych of them in our<sup>2</sup> werkis . Aboute the makynge of the seide arowes to bee put or do to be put in our wages in the Cite of London to us for to ferue . And the same arowes and tymber for the same Arowe hedes silk wex fletchers and others stuffures and necessaries whatsoeue thei bee the which for the werkis Aforesaid shall be sene behoneable for our mony in this pte resonably to be paied to take to arrest and to provide . And therfor to the We comaunde that abowte the þmysses diligently thow Attende . And thoo thow doo to be executed in forme aforesaide . Yevyng to all euych Shereses Mairis Bailiffes and to other our true liege people of whom hit ihalbe long in this pte bi the tenour of thise þent tres stedefaſtly yeue in comaundement that the executoñ of the þmisse thei be attending obeyng & helping in all thyngs as hit shalbe long . In wittnesse of the which thyng thise tres patentes we haue made wittnesse my selfe att Maiditon the thirde day of January the flourth yere of our reign

Bi the kyng

Bi bille of the Maister  
of the ordenaunce of the  
same kyng

<sup>202</sup> See note 201 on last page.

[LETTERS PATENT FROM THE KING TO THE MAYOR  
RESPECTING THE LEVYING OF TROOPS.]

Trusty and welbeloued we grete you wele and forasmuche as bi  
thaduis of our grete counsaile . we haue appointed an Armee of vj m<sup>l</sup>  
men to go in bretayne for the relief and succo<sup>r</sup> of the same in eschewyng  
the inconvenient that might ensue to this our realme . We truyting  
in your wisdomes and faithfull disposicions towardis vs hau addressed  
oure Comysyons to you to thentent that ye shall calle bi fore you the  
gentille<sup>s</sup> and men of honnour of our Countie of North Wherfore  
We defyre and pray you to endeavour you therupon to make  
due enserche howe many hable men well and defensibly Arraied .  
We may haue oute of the saide Countie to do vs l<sup>o</sup>uis in this our  
armee forsaide & to be redy at o<sup>r</sup> porte of Portesmouth the laste day of  
february next comyng eche of theym vj<sup>4</sup> for xx<sup>4</sup> myles ely day and  
a prestre of thaire wagis for iiii monethes . And that ye devide your  
selfe in ely partie of o<sup>r</sup> said Countie in such fadde wise as ye may  
the rather certifie vs what noumbre of hable psones arraied as a boue  
the same o<sup>r</sup> said Countie may make and ye put vs in knowlege hereof  
bi the x<sup>th</sup> day aftir the begynnyng of our pliament Doyng that herin  
youre effectuell devoires and diligence settynge aparte all fauour mede  
and pcialite as our espiall trust is in you Yeuen vndre o<sup>r</sup> signet  
at our Mano<sup>r</sup> of Shenee the xxij<sup>th</sup> daie of Decembre

[Folio 5b.]

[Folio 6a.]

HIC INCIPIT TABULAM DEBET VSAGEZ ET CUSTO-  
MEZ DE NORHAMPTON

[TABLE OF THE HEADINGS OF THE CHAPTERS.]

- Cap° i° Off londes and tenementes bought aft<sup>r</sup> the vſage and the Customes of Norhampton and holden a yere & a day
- Cap° ii° ffor to aike a Cate of londe and in whiche maner
- Cap° iii° That the kyng or the cheſe Lord maken grement with in viij daies of the tenement to hem graunted
- Cap° iiiij° Off dower of women astir the vſages and the lawes of the toun of Norhampton and how thei shall be dowed
- Cap° v° Off knowliches of wyſes made of doweryes in the Court and of other Rightes that to hem myght fallen
- Cap° vi° If a man take a Wyfe that hath londe tenement or Rent of erytage [inheritance] or yeven in fre mariage how thei may hit sell
- Cap° viij° If a man take a Wyfe & hath Jſue and astir þ<sup>r</sup> dethe of that wife take anoper wife and have also Jſue how her erytage & her purchasſe ſhalbe porciunde a monge hem alle
- Cap° viij° How the hufbonde ſhall holde the ffree Mariage of his wiſſe by the Curtalſy of Jnglond
- Cap° ix° How a man may londe tenement or Rente laye to wed with owten Chalenge of Right Eyre or of chete lords
- Cap° x° Iff the wardes of Rentes ovir Rennen of tenement in Norhampton and Recovere he ſhall haue be warde
- Cap° xi° How aman may ſell his londe tenement or Rent purchased alle though his Eyre him wolde wſeyn
- Cap° xii° Off hem that dwelleñ in the toun of Norhampton a yere and a day that ben ſtraunge withoute Chalenge of her lorde
- Cap° xiiij° How aman may geſe to his oon daughter a parte of his herytage or of his purchas withoute geynſeyng of Eyre or of his cheſe lorde

[Folio 6b.]

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xiiij<sup>o</sup>** That no deceynte be where thorough the Eyre or the  
chefe lorde be for barred of her Right that toucheth  
free tenement [Folio 7a.]

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xv<sup>o</sup>** Off hem that Sofferen her rente too passeñ A yere or  
too or thre in ditheritouñ of her tenaunte

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xvij<sup>o</sup>** Off Rentes and Releves to be hadde aftir the viages  
the touñ of Norhamptoñ

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xvij<sup>o</sup>** Off noyelaunce of walle; hegges or gotters well  
dykekyngē or of other lyked thing to neyghbores

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xviii<sup>o</sup>** Howe astraunge marchauntz shulen comen and byen  
wolles stelles greate hydes hony cheſe ffleſch and  
other thyngē

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xix<sup>o</sup>** Off norices and of oþir seruauntis aþoynd of her  
evyll wylle

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xx<sup>o</sup>** Howe the customes of the touñ of Norhamptoñ  
shulen be paied and in which stedis

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xi<sup>o</sup>** Of distreices that shuln not be takeñ but it be for  
the kynges dette [Folio 7b.]

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xxij<sup>o</sup>** The peyne of men that aruñ soþoned to be fore the  
Maire and comen nott

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xxiiij<sup>o</sup>** To taken stallage resonable aftir the viages

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xxiiij<sup>o</sup>** If debate be amonȝe Marchauntz for her marchandise

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xxv<sup>o</sup>** How the flißheris p̄uez and straunge shulen  
m̄chañden

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xxvj<sup>o</sup>** Of certeyn stedis assigned for baxsteȝs p̄uez and  
straunge

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xxvij<sup>o</sup>** Of hem that bryngen to toun burthenes of hay and  
strawe

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xxviii<sup>o</sup>** The forfeitures of tymber of wode and of Stokkes to  
the baillifȝ profette

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xxix<sup>o</sup>** That no marchaunde of North ne bye no manȝ of  
marchaundise but in ferten stede assigned

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xxx<sup>o</sup>** That non huxster not bye no maner of vitaile be forme  
prime Rongen at all halowen chyrche

**Cap<sup>o</sup> xxxj<sup>o</sup>** That no man of the toun of Norhamptoñ ne emplede  
oþir owte of the fraanchise by no manȝ purchase [Folio 8a.]

Capt<sup>o</sup> xxxij<sup>o</sup> How good mennes sones of the touñ of Norþt and oþir Straungers shall þeuen to be put in duselyn

Capt<sup>o</sup> xxxiiij<sup>o</sup> Tronage and of ffleisþe hewers

Capt<sup>o</sup> xxxvij<sup>o</sup> Of bochers that bryngen ffresh hydes to chepyng to sell ageyns the viages

Capt<sup>o</sup> xxxv<sup>o</sup> Howe the wache shalbe made in the touñ hit for to kepen .and whenn nede is for other aventours

Capt<sup>o</sup> xxxvi<sup>o</sup> How the marchaundes of Norþt shall goon to ffeires to hyren shoppes

Capt<sup>o</sup> xxxvij<sup>o</sup> How marchaundis of Norhampton shall leue hit godis to straungers

Capt<sup>o</sup> xxxviiij<sup>o</sup> How s<sup>o</sup>uauntes of Norhampton shall be Relsyued in to oþir seruice of gode men of the touñ

Capt<sup>o</sup> xxxix<sup>o</sup> Of concynes made in the touñ of Norhampton ageyne the astate of the touñ made

[Folio 8b.] Capt<sup>o</sup> xl<sup>o</sup> Howe the Regrateris of threde shuln makeñ her marchaundise of threde and in which maner

Capt<sup>o</sup> vij<sup>o</sup> How marchauntis of Norþt sholn m<sup>o</sup>chaundisen And payen her ernest

Capt<sup>o</sup> xlij<sup>o</sup> Of hem that wylle seyne her grete sothe in the Courte of Norhampton

Capt<sup>o</sup> xluij<sup>o</sup> The maner of cloth makeris howe they sholn be am<sup>o</sup>cyed .And what peyne thei shon haue for the defaute that may be foundeñ by the viages

Capt<sup>o</sup> xluijij<sup>o</sup> Of deisters and of oþir that caſten synkyng thyngis in the kynges hye weie of Norhampton

Capt<sup>o</sup> xlvi<sup>o</sup> The fyne that bochers shall þuen atte by gynnyng to the pfeite of the toun .Whan thei walle marchaunden

[Folio 9a.] Cap<sup>o</sup> vlij<sup>o</sup> That no bocher ne bye no swyne withoute that he haue warauntiȝ of clenneſſe

Cap<sup>o</sup> xlviij<sup>o</sup> Allſo of bocheris that sellen fflesh corrupte on her stallis that defendid by the viages of the touñ

Cap<sup>o</sup> xlviij<sup>o</sup> Of wodours Straunge that sellen wod in Norþt and of woders that hem harberynȝ withoute leue of Bailliffs

Cap<sup>o</sup> xlxi<sup>o</sup> Of marchauntis of the toun of Norþt that marchaunden with the penys of Straunge meñ

Cap<sup>o</sup> i<sup>o</sup> What aman shall paie to the profite of the touñ for londe & tenement; bought in the same touñ

Cap<sup>o</sup> ii<sup>o</sup> The peyne of deiters that euell and falsly dyen her clothe that thei taken of oþir

Cap<sup>o</sup> iii<sup>o</sup> Of websteris that doñ vp the clothe but by Assie &c.

Cap<sup>o</sup> iv<sup>o</sup> How theise straunge wodours sholn maken her gerners [Folio 9b.] in the toun of Norhamptoñ

Cap<sup>o</sup> v<sup>o</sup> What power the chefe lorde hath of tenement that his tenaunt holte of hym in ffee within the ffranchise of Norhamptoñ

Cap<sup>o</sup> vi<sup>o</sup> If aman holde atenement in c<sup>o</sup>teyne of another And the tenement be charged to another more souereyn chefe And that ilke mene is holden him to aguyten and Reþleyue the syluer of his tenaunt

Cap<sup>o</sup> vii<sup>o</sup> How the attachementis of dettis sholn be done of the straunge men in the toun of Norhamptoñ

Cap<sup>o</sup> viii<sup>o</sup> The ffresh fors of the toun of Northampton Alls well for pore as for Riche

Cap<sup>o</sup> ix<sup>o</sup> The p'ue men and straunge that sholn ben enfrauncched in the touñ of Norhamptoñ

—

[U]SAGES AND THE LAWES OF THE TOWN OF NORH̄T [Folio 10a.]  
 confermed bi the Charteres of diuerse kynges of Eng-  
 lond bi the Purchaces of olde wise men of the same  
 John. town which theise ben her names writen here That is  
 to seyn . Peris Adam [and] his sone William [of] the Rows Philip  
 Jordān [and his] sone Bartholomewe his Brother Rōste harry [and]  
 his sone Jngram harry [and] his sone Robert of leycestr<sup>9</sup> Robert  
 Gilbert [and] is sone Tyband Rog<sup>9</sup> [and] is sone William Rey-  
 mond [and] his sone Adam [and] his brother Reynald [and] his  
 brother William of huntyngdon Gilberd Duraunte sone Wariner<sup>9</sup>  
 Gobeon howe the Seler<sup>9</sup> Robert Trustone [and] his sone henry howe  
 [and] his sone William Gurney Edward Blounde hewe of Plompton  
 Adam the Spenser Richard Ernaldis sone John Nett [and] is son  
 Rafe Bedenyñ [and] his sone William Gilberdis sone Joselyn the  
 Clerke Eralde de la porte Water Wautissone Geffrey Waydour<sup>9</sup>  
 Richard Waydour<sup>9</sup> Jngram Wygeressone William Elwyneisone Robert  
 Brown William Piscelewe Robert blount Maister Muchell Belaunt  
 Rafe de Bosvyle Siñon Wytor Alriche god and other<sup>23</sup>

## CAPITULUM PRIMU

[OF LANDS AND TENEMENTS BOUGHT ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM  
OF NORTHAMPTON, AND HOLDEN A YEAR AND A DAY.]

If any man resonably astir the viages and the lawes of the towñ  
 of Northampton and bi wittnesse of the Courte of Norhampton londe  
 teñ or Rente have bought and that londe teñ & rente be in pees  
 with owte Chalenge bi a ȝere and a day haue holden stedefaste shall be  
 holden that biyng so that the bier ne shall answere to no man of  
 that londe tenement or Rente for non man<sup>9</sup>e purchase that vppon hym  
 may be purchased . But if it be thus That he that by Right that the  
 londe tenement or Rente myght be chalenged in that yere and that day  
 That that londe tenemēt or rent was solde and a kate haue ben owte  
 of Englond or in prisōn or withinne age . And if hit so be that he  
 haue ben owte of the lond or be in prison . Or withinne Age . Thanne  
 at what tyme he cometh too that same londe tenemēt or Rente Be  
 the Ryght myght chalenge and in that yere and in that day . That he  
 be comen in to the londe Or owte of prison . And that he be of ffulle  
 age in pleyn Courte comen and in that londe tenement Rente by hym

[Folio 10b.]

<sup>23</sup> The additional words within brackets in this paragraph are entirely conjectural.

or by other haue sette his chalenge Saued thanne be to hym his acciō  
of that londe tenement or Rente to chalenge And to recueron with  
write or w'owten write And if he be right may Recoueryn And if  
he may not doo so that yere nor that day That he cometh in to the  
londe or owte of presoun or to his age by hym nor by no man ellis to  
make chalenge his acciō is looste for euer That londe tenement or  
Rent to recuereñ

## CAPITULUM SECUNDUM

## [OF ASKING A CATE OR PURCHASE OF LAND.]

Purveide hit is Alſo that if any man Haue any londes tenement  
or Rente of his heritage or of purchase and he that londe tenement  
or rente nedith to ſellyn his kyne Allwey ſhall be moſte nexte to Aſke  
the Cate<sup>204</sup> Than any man ellis or the cheſe lord if ther be no man  
of the lynage And if the cheſe lord take the Sales Be he for barren  
of the Cate And if it ſo be that londe tenement or Rent be folde  
And the Kynne or the cheſe lorde yiſ ther be non of the blode  
comeñ in to the Courte with Jnne the fowre firſte plees aftir the Sale  
of the londe tenement or rente in the Courte to be ſhewed and  
profered to gyfe to the bier for that londe tenement or Rente Alſo  
mych as it hym coſte and he shall haue the bying of that londe tene-  
ment or Rente ſo that he make agreement of the payng of mony Aſtir  
. viij dayes that the Cate is graunted And yiſ him ſeluen in the Courte  
be ſhewed And the Kynne nor the cheſe lorde axith noȝt the Cate  
within fflowre plees as it is feide be forne And if he faile of his  
Sute of that any of the fowre Courtes leſe his Accion and be for done  
for euer of the Cate to hauen And if the ſale be done oute of the  
Courte ſo that hit be not ſhewd in the courte Then it be ſaued to the  
Kynne or to the cheſe lorde here Aſkyng of the Cate to recouereñ and  
to hauen Alſo ſone as this ſale is ſhewed And if the ſeller of the londe  
tenement or Rente to for barren the kynne or the cheſe lorde of her  
Aſkyng greſter ſum̄e of mony haue named than he of the bier  
haue receyvid good leve ſhall be to the kynne That the Cate aſke or to  
the cheſe lorde take the oīl of the ſeller As well as of the byer And  
if ij comenners thow thei ben no mo And that the ſeller leſſe then  
he Recyven nor the bier laſe nor he gave So that all maner fraude and  
Collusion be done awey Alſo ſone as the kynne or the cheſe lorde

[Folio 11a.]

<sup>204</sup> A cate, or purchase, from the old French word *achate*.

In dewe maner proferith penys in pleyne Courte comyn and haue the Cate Aske thenne anon right be also well the seller as the byer somonyd to come to the nexte court ther after And yf thei come not to the Courte be thei distreyned to come to the Secounde Courte And if thei at that Courte ne comen Be the londe tenement or Rente taken into the Kyngis honde bi the Bailles at the thirde Courte And than by the siluer delyuerged into the Baillyffy hondes vnder the Seall of the Asker to holden tille the ffourthe Courte And if the fourthe Courte the londe tenement or Rente be not replenyshed Than be the Seyfone of suche londe tenement or Rente dilyueryd to the asker by the Baylles Saued to the byer when he cometh his resonable answerys. And if it so be that he that byeth that londe tenement or Rente no maner coittages hath made in that londe tenemēt or rent att that the Cate of that londe tenement or rent in the courte be asked by the Kynē or by the chefe lorde not pat he hath theron leyd Aftir that the Cate be Asked hym hit shall be Alowed

[Folio 11b.]

## CAPITULUM TERTIUM

## [OF THE DOWER OF WOMEN.]

Also it is purveide that if any man forpoverte or with owte poverte londe tenement or Rente wolde sellēn his sone his daughter Kynne the chefe lorde shall not in no manē wife letten But if it be so that thei anon Right with Jnne . viij daies and aftir that he hauyth hem shewed that he his londe tenement or Rent wolde sellyn or at the laste withinne the terme that he to hem of his good wolde seuen wolde therof makyn his grement And if any man wylle his londe tenement or Rente taken or seuen to fynde him his sustinaunce terme of his lyfe He that is of his blode shalbe most nexte Thā altraunge Man so he woll done and fynden in the same maner as a straunge man wolde done

[Folio 12a.]

## CAPITULUM QUARTUM

## [OF THE KING OR CHIEF LORD MAKING AN AGREEMENT WITHIN EIGHT DAYS AFTER LANDS HAVE BEEN GRANTED.]

Pvrueid hit is also that if any man take a wife hit shall be good to downen his wyfe at his wille in A certeyne sume of siluer And if he woll in this manē that is forto seyne that of that serteyn some

of silue be endentures mad betwixte the yever and his wiffe And hat hit be Enrolled in the Comyn Roll of dywer And if he woll not dowen his wiffe in a serteyn sume of silue as hit is seide beforene Be she than dowed after the comen lawe of the londe And if the wyfe that is dowed of serteyn holde the londes tenementes or Rentes Aftir the deth of her husbonde and her grement be made of serteyn Thanne what tyme that the heyre come and make gree with the wiffe of the certeyn Thanne be the londes tenementes or rente to be heyre delyued And if the Eyre aftir the deth of his fiafur be not of power to make grement The wiffe of hir serteyn thanne he shall comaunde that the hold londe tenement or Rent tille hir grement be made That wiffe ne shall done nor suffre to done waste nor distruxcion in the londes tenementes or rentes And if she make waste or distruxcion or suffre to be done lese for eu<sup>2</sup> the londes tenementis or Rentis In which she has done or suffred to be done [Folio 115b.] wait or distruccio[n] w'owntyn any recoverer<sup>2</sup> of her certyne of the londes tenementis or Rentis so wasted or destrued . And that is also well to vnderstonde what so she be dowed of serteyn somme of silue or by the Comen lawe of londe

#### CAPITULUM QUINTO

##### [OF THE GRANTING OF LAND BY A MAN AND HIS WIFE IN OPEN COURT.]

Also hit is purveide that if any man woll sellen his londe tenement or Rente by the graunte of his wyffe so that he and his wiffe comyn into pleyne Courte and the wyffe Quyte cleyme to the byer hyr Right of the dower in pleyn plees And pray to the Courte that the courte wolde witnesse That she hath quyte cleymed all hir Right that she may haven in tho londes tenementes or Rentis by ryght of dower . heritage . mariage . Or by other Right till the Ende of the worlde that thyng shall dwellyn stedsaite . So that she aftir the deth of hir husbonde non recoverith shall haue of tho londes tenementes or Rente And hit is to witten That this same quyte cleyme shall be entred in the Common Rolle

#### CAPITULO V<sup>to</sup>

##### [OF A WIFE GRANTING LAND HELD BY HER OF INHERITANCE OR GIVEN TO HER IN FREE MARRIAGE.]

Also hit is purveide that any man take a wyffe that hath londe

tenement or Rente of hyr heritage or that is ȝoven with hir in franke [Folio 13a.] mariage þoo ȝifstes Joynte to geder may thei for proverte or w'owte poverté such londe tenement or Rente sellen And stedfaste shall ben that ilke sale so that aftir the deth of hir husbonde non Recouere therof shall hauen . But if a man haue londe tenement or Rent of his ȝpre heritage or of his purchase That liker may ben . And that she ne may haue no Recouere aftir his deth . And yise any woman take a husbonde aftir deth of her formest husbonde And the haue Children bi the formest husbonde . The latter husbond ne may not that fraunk mariage nor that heritage Gyffyn nor sellyn That Siker may ben

## CAPITULUM SEPTIMO

[OF A MAN'S RIGHT TO DEVISE LAND TO THE CHILDREN  
OF HIS SECOND WIFE.]

Pvruide hit is also that if any man take a Wyffe and gete on hir Children and aftir the deth of that wyffe takyth another wyffe . And of that ilke Secounde wyfe allio geteth Children The children of the firſte wyfe whiche that thei be men children or madonys heires of the purchases shall ben . and of the heritage holden in the tyme of the firſt wife . And if aftir the deth of the firſte wife . or bi forn the deth of firſt wyfe londe tenement or rent haue purchased Gode leve be to hym if he will That ilke p'chase ȝeven or by quethen to the children of þ' secound wyfe &c

CAPITULUM VIII<sup>o</sup>

## [OF A MAN'S RIGHT TO BE TENANT BY COURTESY.]

Allio it is purveide that if any man take a wyffe with free mariage and gete a Childe on hir And the Crie of the childe be herde with jnne the hows aftir the deth of the wyffe he shall holde that ffremariage to the terme of his lyffe But that ilke fremariage may be neu<sup>r</sup> Gyffyn sellen nor leyen to wedde but aftir the deth of the husbond Returnen shall that mariage to the heires of the wiffe Or to hym that ȝafe that free mariage . And if the wife dye with owten Childe Thanne shall that free mariage Afor the xl daies Returnen to hym That that ȝafe hit or to his nexte heires

[Folio 13b.]

CAPITULUM IX<sup>o</sup>

[OF A MAN SELLING HIS LAND TO A STRANGER AFTER OFFERING IT TO HIS KIN AND CHIEF LORD.]

Purveide it is also that if any man for his pouerte or with owte pou<sup>t</sup>e his londe tenement or Rent wolde Sellen or leyen to wedde and he it haue profered to sellen or to wedde leyen to his kynne or to his chefe lorde be forn trewe men And thei haue hit forsaken well likith hym thanne to what straunge man that he will That ilke londe tenement or rente sellen or leyen to wedde So that the kynne nor the chefe lorde neu<sup>r</sup> shall hit recoden to haue the a kate or the leying to þe wedde So that he may shewen and averreyn by trewe men to other there that he profered the thyng to the kynne other to the chefe lorde and ther thei the thing Refused And if it so be that the kynne or the chefe lord The londe tenement or Rente wullen haven and ȝeven Also much as a straunge man Thanne he by forne all other that ilke lond tenement or rente shall haven

CAPITULUM X<sup>o</sup>

[OF A MAN'S RIGHT TO DISTRAIN FOR RENT.]

[Folio 14a.]

Allso hit is provided that if any man haue Rente vppon any tenemet and that tenement be fornclosed where thorough he may not entren to distreyn for his Rente first he shall comyn in to the Courte and askyn a warde of the Courte theroffen than shall hym ben awarded that he take gode men of the Courte that thei with hym gooen to the tenement and maken the syght of the forclosyng and they shall taken and shall make the sight And thanne shall he comen to the Secunde Courte astur and Seyen that he hath been atte the tenement so as hym was awarded with .ij. gode men if ther be no mo. whiche shullen witneslyn that thei hau made the sight And that the tenement is forclosed and the man<sup>e</sup> of that forclosyng Thanne shall ben awarded and comaunded that the Bailiff<sup>s</sup> hym shall maken entre for to distreyen for his Rente By olde entres and old goynges oute And astur that he haue entred bi the Baillifs for to distreyen for his Rente He shall distreynen by all that he may fynden bi dorres and by wyndowes and all other maner thyng<sup>e</sup> not faste in the erthe And whan he hath so distreyned that he ne fynde no more to distreyne and that the tenaunt ne make not his peas Thanne shall he comen to a nother

Courte and shewen That he ne fynde no more to distreyn And  
 aike aftir warde another a warde And thanne shall hym ben  
 awarded that he take good men with hym and that they goon  
 to the tenement for to seen if they synden more to distreyn or  
 non And he and they shullen goone And thanne come into the [Folio 14b.]  
 Courte with those goode men That have the sighte made And if  
 thei witneffen that ther is no more to distreynen Thanne shall  
 hym ben Awarded that he take the tenement in to his honde  
 for desaute of s<sup>o</sup>uice And hangen on a gayne the dorres and the  
 wyndowes. And that he holde hit in his honde a yere and a day  
 And if the tenaunt come not with Jnne a yere and a day to  
 maken his grement Aftir that yere and that day shall he comen  
 to the Courte and showen that he hath holden that tenement with  
 Rente in his honde a yere and a day And that his pees is not  
 made of that Rente. Thanne hym shall ben awarded that he may  
 the tenement don to hyren and amendyn his Rente for to saven  
 So that he ley tymbur of oke ne ash ne ffreston to disheritosoun  
 of his tenaunt. And if he ley on tymbur of Oke hit shall ben a  
 covnted for beche And ffreston for melynn. And his tenaunt or the  
 next heire come come ther aftir warde and wolde a Counten to hym.  
 And wille his a grement Seken and zelden hym his arrurages  
 And he wolle not Resceyven hem Thanne shall comen the tenaunt  
 or the next heire to the Courte and shewen how he hath ben  
 at his chefe lorde and hym a bode to a counte to hym and  
 hem proferid to zelden hym his arrurages and the Reionable  
 Costages that he hath ther leide owte take tymbur of Oke and  
 freiton And that ne will not Resceyven. Than shall ben the heued  
 so monned to comen to the next Courte aftir that he shall be  
 comaunded be the Courte that he acounte to his tenaunte. And  
 that he take his Arrurages And if he will not don soo. Thanne  
 shall he goon owte ther offen bi awarde so as he entred bi awarde. [Folio 15a.]

CAPITULUM X<sup>o</sup>

[OF A MAN'S RIGHT TO SELL LAND PURCHASED BY HIM.]

Pvrveide it is also that if any man haue londe tenement or  
 Rente of his owen heritage and other londe tenement or rente  
 of his purchase. Good leve be to hym to Gyffen his purchase  
 or to sellen to whom hym likes All though his heir wolde hym  
 with fayne

CAPITULUM XI<sup>o</sup>

[OF A MAN DWELLING BY THE FRANCHISE OF THE TOWNE.]

Graunted hit is also that if any man haue dwelled with owten chalenge of his lorde in the town of Norhampton A yere and a day And he be fyre howse holdyng at loot and Scotte he shall dwelle ffree ther by the fraanchise of the towne

CAPITULUM XII<sup>o</sup>

[OF A MAN'S RIGHT TO GIVE HIS LAND TO HIS DAUGHTERS.]

Allso hit is purveide that if A man haue londes tenis or Rentes of his heritage or of his purchase and he have a daughter or tweyne or moo .Good leve be to him to seuen to his ♂ douster a ptie of his londis tenemente or Rentis in free mariage and the lorde of the fee hym ne shall not moun letten nor with seyn hit So that his s'oice be faved nor his sone nor the kynne hym ne may letten that ought hym may grevene

CAPITULUM XIII<sup>o</sup>

[OF A MAN'S RIGHT TO LET HIS LAND FOR A TERM.]

Also it is purveide if that any man ne may not his londe tenement or rente leyen other to wedde ne take to terme ne longe terme ne shorte but if so bee that he that leyth hit to wedde .And he that shall haue hit comen into pleen pleez .And sweren that he done hit not to the deceyte of the Right of the kynne or of the chefe lorde .And if hit so be that the Awarde ther of ne ben not ashed in pleyne Courte with Jnne the first fowre plees astir the thyng be leide to wedde or too terme be leued and in pleyne Courte shewed .

CAPITULUM XV<sup>o</sup>

[OF A MAN'S OMISSION TO DISTRAIN FOR RENT FOR A YEAR AND A DAY.]

Pvrveide hit is allso that if no man that may his flee distreynen for his Rente that he is by hynde of whiche tenement is waste or herberged .and he for the dishherytyng of his tenaunt suffr the Rente passen ovyr a yere and a day or two

yere or thre or moo That he it asketh not lese he the s<sup>9</sup>uyse of  
all thoo yerys owte take the laste yere In which yere he hath  
made the distresse for his Rent But if it so be that he be forne  
haue monysshed his tenaunt to yelden to him hys Rente And that  
his tenaunt therof toke day of hym. and bi witnesse of gode men

[Folio 16a.]

CAPITULUM XVJ<sup>o</sup>[OF RELIEF FROM THE CHIEF LORD AFTER THE DEATH OF  
THE TENANT.]

Also purveide hit is that if any man holde lont tent or rente  
of other bi a litell seruise of Siluer s<sup>9</sup>teyn named or bi graunte  
after the deth of the tenaunt Relef theroffen shall be ȝeven and  
sellynges. if the tenaunte selle the tenement if the chefe lorde  
will not haue the a kate And if any tenaunte holde mo tent of  
only the chefe lorde he shall haue but on Relef for all tho  
tenementis. But if every tenaunt solde diuerie sellynges.

CAPITULUM XVIJ<sup>o</sup>

## [AS TO CONTROVERSY BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS.]

Purveid hit is also that if contraversy or bebate be twixxe  
Neyghbores of wall tymbryng. hegge. goter welle Swelewe or of  
other thyng<sup>e</sup> like. and the shewyng ther of be done in pleyne  
courte A warded shall be that a good man of the Courte and  
of that Veyne goyng to the tenement and seen that ilke debate  
and that same Nusance and hym that they seyen Thenne for  
Right for that on partie or that other w<sup>9</sup>owten more delay be  
it ferme & stable.

CAPITULUM XVIIJ<sup>o</sup>[AS TO THE SALE OF WOOL, THREAD, HIDES, TALLOW,  
HONEY, CHEESE, OR FLESH.]

Alio purveide hit is that if any straunge man that ledeth wolle  
in to the town of Norhampton may not sellen his wolle deptyn  
but all hole to geder And that no straunge may byen wolle in  
the town of Norhamptoñ but if it be in tyme of the feyre or of  
good men of the same towñ. And that no straunger may byen  
threde in Norhampton for to leden hit owte of the toun but in

[Folio 16b.]

tyme of a feire No straunger ne may byen freſh hydes or peltes in Norhampton but in tyme of ffeſyre. And that no marchaunde of this shire ne non other straunger of other Shires that comyth in to Norhampton with wolle. hides. Talowe. hony. or cheſe or ffleſhe ſhall no where leyn down but in the Kynges ſhoppe. And ther to be purveid a Coſun Shoppe

#### CAPITULUM XIX<sup>o</sup>

##### [OF SERVANTS WHO WILFULLY LEAVE THEIR MASTERS.]

Pvrveide hit is alſo that if any man haue noryſhed Tapeſter or ſeraunte. And they of wiſked will hem with drawen or voyden her ſervice. And pleynt be made ther of the Baillift; ſhullen Attachen the worde and the ptyes ther as they may be founden and from houre to houre bi the ſpeche folowed till the Right be done theroffe

#### CAPITULUM XX<sup>o</sup>

##### [OF MERCHANTS WHO PASS NORTHAMPTON, PAYING CUSTOM.]

Also hit is ordeyned that no marchaunde that cuſtome ſhall payen may be Ryght paſſen the town or Norht with owten ȝendyng of Cuſtome. And alſo hit be hoveth that they Gevyn cuſtome in the ſtedes writen here Aſtir That is to ſeyn oute of Norhamptoñ at Bylyng brygge and at Seresham Crosse and at Slapton<sup>203</sup> for whi theiſe Cuſtomes harren longyng to the fraunchife of Norhamptoñ

{Folio 17a.]

#### CAPITULUM XX<sup>o</sup>

##### [OF CERTAIN THINGS THAT CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR DISTRESS.]

Ordeyned hit is alſo that no man of Norhamptoñ take in the ſame toun for diſtreſſe cowe. lyter. Brede freſh fleiſh myll horſe freſh hydes nor horſe that ledeth water in the toun that men callith Buſhes But if hit be for dette of hym that oweth the thynges be fore named or but if hit be on principall dette for an other or for the kynges dette

<sup>203</sup> Billing Bridge is one of the old bridges over the Nene, about four miles east of Northampton. Syresham is a village near Brackley; there are now no remains of the Market Cross. Slapton is a small village near Towceſter.

CAPITULUM XXIJ<sup>o</sup>[OF A MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE TO ATTEND THE MAYOR'S  
SUMMONS.]

Allso hit is proued that if any man be Reasonably lyke J Summoned to come be fore the maire at his commaundemet by the Clerke or by the Seriaunt and he with Sitte the somouns And that he come not be he Amercied at ijs with owten reles And but if hit be soo that he that is somoned haue for hym a Reasonable excusacioñ And hit is to vndirstonden that a ryche man be am<sup>c</sup>ied at ijs amene man at xijd apore man at vjd . And theise am<sup>c</sup>iamementis be thei turned into the profite of the Comoun

CAPITULUM XXIIJ<sup>o</sup>

## [OF TWO MEN HOLDING ONE STALL.]

Also hit is purveide that if two men or thre holden a stalle in the town of Norhampton That on of hem shall be quyte of the stallage And the other shallen payen And that is to vndurstonden of stalles that ben sette in chepyng

[Folio 17b.]

CAPITULUM XXIIIJ<sup>o</sup>

## [AS TO THE SALE OF HORSES, NEAT KINE, SWINE AND SHEEP.]

Pvrveid hit is allso that of all maner bestes That is to Seyen horie Nett kyne swyne shepe and all other bestes that arne solde in the Chepyng of Norhampton all though that ther ben atte m<sup>c</sup>haundiȝe .ij . men or iiij or mo to the Bargaynyng nor bye yet be Geven but be lotte be twyx the Bargaynours of that marchaundiȝe and throwen vpp whom the loott shallith to hym falle the marchaundiȝe . And if it so be wynnyng be ȝoven he that hath hit ȝoven And ther of be ouertaken be he in the mercy of the town of xijd with owten Reles . And this is allso well to vndirstonden of Baxters that byen Corne and hem that byen peſen And of Bochers and of other that byen suche maner marchaundiȝe be fore naimed

CAPITULUM XXV<sup>o</sup>

## [AS TO THE SALE OF FISH AND SALT.]

Allso purveid hit is that no ffyſher nor oþer man that ffyſhe sellith ne bye ffyſhe of no man that ffyſhe bryngeth into towñ

[Folio 18a.] to sellen of Norhampton tille that he that the ffyshe bryngeth into town holding his chepyng fully the ffirst day that he cometh into towñ Nor no marchaunde of the town not goo owte of the toun nygh nor ffer by xxiiij<sup>th</sup> myles from Norhampton for to byen ffylle or salt for to derthen the town . And if any ther with be oþtaken be amerced to the towñ at ijs . And if he so doo thryes and ther of be oþtaken ffor swere he the Craft a yere & a day

CAPITULUM XXVJ<sup>o</sup>

[OF BADGERS, OR VENDORS OF BREAD AND CORN, SELLING IN ONE PLACE.]

Pvrveide hit is also that the Baxters sitteñ in a s<sup>9</sup>teyñ stede to gedyr and on on Rewe and also do they of Eckton<sup>205</sup> and alle other straunge Baxters And all the Regrateres of brede and of Corñ done they also And that thei leyen in howse no . brede . Corne nor malte for to derthe the chepyng nor the towñ All poughey may not sellen at her wille to the harme of the towñ And of men of the contre that byen her brede and her corne And tho that suche thyngis hauen Resseyted and of theym that ben oþtaken be they am<sup>c</sup>ied to the towñ of xij<sup>th</sup> with oute relefe if thei many tymes be oþtaken ther of be pey more greuously amerced

CAPITULUM XXVIJ<sup>o</sup>

[OF VENDORS OF HAY AND STRAW.]

[Folio 18b] Also hit is purveide that no man that bereth burthens of hey or of straws pese strawe or bene strawe into towne ne come hit nouȝt doñ on the erthe from his hedde tyll they haue sold hit And if thei done lese they the burthene &c

CAPITULUM XXVIIJ<sup>o</sup>

[OF VENDORS OF TIMBER.]

Pvrveide hit is also that no man that bryngeth in to the towñ tymber wode stokkes grete tymber or alſe ne come hit not down to the kynges grounde ffor to latten hit lyen ther

<sup>205</sup> Ecton is a small village lying about five miles north-east of Northampton.

title haue solde hit All though he may not selle hit . And who so dothe hit lese he the tymber . wode or stokke to the profite of the Bailiffs

CAPITULUM XXIX<sup>o</sup>

[OF THOSE THAT BUY HIDES ANYWHERE BUT IN THE MARKET.]

Allso purueide hit is that no man of Norhampton Marchaunde ne other goo owte of the towñ of Norhampton at non of the gates nyse or ferre with Jnne the sraunchie for to meten the men of the Countre That bryngen fielles or wolle to sellen ffor to byen fielles or wolle of hem in none other stede But in the kynges merkett of Norhampton ther too serertenly assigned . And And who ther of be outaken that he goo with owte the gates or in howse or in hydirmuke for fielles or wolle elles where to byen But in the kynges Chepyng Os hit is seide be he in the mercy to the town of ijs with owte reles &c

CAPITULUM XXX<sup>o</sup>

[OF THOSE THAT BUY FOOD ANYWHERE BUT IN THE MARKET, ALSO OF REGRATERS.]

Pvruede Hit is allso that no Huxter . Man nor Woman of Norhampton ne gon owte of the touñ at non of the gates ne in no strete ne in howse ne in other hydynges But in the kynges Chepyng ther to Assigned for to byen no man<sup>e</sup> of vitaile That is for to seyne fyshe nor hennes nor kokkes nor chese Eyren nor none other vitaile nor wode nor Cole for to derthen the vitaile . And no man ne bye suche thyng . be forn the prime be Rungen at all Holowen Chirche . And that the Regraters byen alway tho forseide thyng in a s<sup>o</sup>teyne stede of Chepyng ther to assigned . And who so be founde that dothe agayne this purviaunce lese he the Catell that in that man<sup>e</sup> hem hath bought And ssite neuthelese he shall ben am<sup>o</sup>cyed at vj<sup>4</sup> to the Bayllyfes . And if any Regrater man or woman any of the thynges be fore named be fore the houre of pryme hadde bought . And seyen that the thinge they haue bought to the profite of Sum burges of the touñ Afferme thei thanne or sweren on the halydome that the thynges to the pfyte of the burges bouyen . And if they thanne by the Burges ben a warded be they quyte . And if thei ther of be outaken And by the burgeys disavoved be

they thanne first am<sup>2</sup>cyed at vjd and astir at xjd. and if they thrise of that fravde ben outaken for swere they the crafte a yere and a daye

CAPITULUM XXXJ<sup>o</sup>

[Folio 19b.]

XXXJ<sup>o</sup>[OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF AGENTS FOR THE PURCHASE  
OF GOODS.]

Allso hit is pvruid that no Man nor Woman that ben of the fraanchise of Norhampton ne enplede othir that ben of the same fraanchise owte of Nohampron bi no man<sup>e</sup> purchas Tille he that wille pleynen hym have the Right astir the viages of the Toun and the Courte of Norhampton may hauen And a<sup>n</sup>y dothe the contrary and ther of ben outaken Be he greuously Am<sup>2</sup>cied. And if it so be that he that pleyneth havith Right astir the viages of the toun in the Courte of Norhampton nor then may not haue hit .Seke thanne his purchas ther as he wenyth most sonest Remedio to haue .And w<sup>o</sup>utten chalenge of hem of the Courte Aftirwarde

CAPITULUM XXXIJ<sup>o</sup>

## [OF CHILDREN OF MEN THAT ARE PUT IN PRISON.]

Purueide hit is also that the Children of good men of North that shall be put in dusayne shallen ȝeven ob and the straunge shall geven to the Baillifs iiiij<sup>o</sup> and to the clerke .ij<sup>o</sup> and well they hem kepen the Baillifs vp grevous am<sup>2</sup>cyment .And that thei ne entereñ no straunge man in Rolle of duseyn but thei haue oþe And sikernes of hym of trewth and that he be of ffree condicioñ And that he be þsented to the chefe Duseyner

CAPITULUM XXXIIJ<sup>o</sup>

## [OF BUTCHERS HAVING WEIGHTS.]

Allso purveide hit is that no Bocher nor non other haue tronage but onlye the Bailiff; and that the troner Haue a balaunce hit to weycn and the baillaryff; of the thynge troned .ij<sup>o</sup>. And if any man selle by a ston or ellis of the tronage Astir the qu<sup>t</sup>ite of the weyght .and if any man haue with holden is tronage and ther of ben outaken .ȝeue to the bailliffs .vj<sup>o</sup> for his conseylyng

[Folio 20a.]

CAPITULUM XXXIIJ<sup>o</sup>

[OF THE TAKING OF HIDES OUT OF THE TOWN.]

Purveid hit is also that no bocher nor other ne lede ffresh hides oute of Norht to no Chepyng to sellen But if it be to ffeires And if any ther of be oūtakēn That hit doth he be in the m<sup>er</sup>cy of the Baillifs of ijs

CAPITULUM XXXV<sup>o</sup>

[OF KEEPING WATCH IN THE TOWN.]

Allso purveide it is that if any man be sommoned to waken in the town that nede ben he shall sende no man to take wache for hym But yf he be manne conuenable and defensable And that wacche be made from house to house so os it cometh a bouȝte And that none be Releſed nor for borñ but if it be a warkeman that lyveth vpon his owne hondes .And ſit not but if ther be ſiaunt that he be sommoned by wittenefſe and he ne come not be he in the mercy of the Baillaryſſe of .vj<sup>d</sup>

CAPITULUM XXXVI<sup>o</sup>

[OF HIRING SHOPS AT FAIRS.]

Purveide hit is also that no man of Norhamptoñ goo to no feire be forne oþir for to hyren shoppes for derthyng the shoppes when they comen . And who fo dothe the contrary and ther of be oūtakēn ſhall ben in the mercy of the toun of halfe a marke [Folio 2ob.] And ſit neþtheless ſhall make grement to hym that hath the harme by way of his gooyng

CAPITULUM XXXVIJ<sup>o</sup>

[CONCERNING LOANS.]

Allso prouyded it is that no marchaunde of Norhamptoñ here by forwarde make lone to no knyȝte ne to non other but if so be that he that wolde the thyng borowen be in dette to non other of the touñ And in this man<sup>re</sup> That he to whom he oweþe the dette come to hym that wolde the thyng borowen is in his dette And if any hit doo be in the mercy at .xli. too the towñ and in this man<sup>re</sup> That he that the dette his owed too may averreyn bi witnesse that he hath his neyghbur in this maner warned

CAPITULUM XXXVIIJ<sup>o</sup>

[OF THE HIRING OF SERVANTS.]

Pvrueid hit is also that no man of Norht nor Receyve any others manrys seruaunt into his t<sup>o</sup>uice nor with hym make comenaunt for to dwelle but if it so be that he witte howe and in what man<sup>e</sup> he be departed from his maist<sup>o</sup> that he served and that he be departed in good maner And if any do þ<sup>e</sup> cotry & therof be oultaken be he in the mercy of the bayllyfs of ijs

CAPITULUM XXXIX<sup>o</sup>

[OF PERSONS MAKING COVENANTS.]

Also it is purveide and defendid that no coueyne her by forwardre ne be made wher thorough the Comun and the baillif-  
[Folio 21a.] thep leten hir Ryght And if any ther of be oultaken be he in the mercy to the touñ And to the baillifs of xls

CAPITULUM XL<sup>o</sup>

[CONCERNING REGRATERS.]

Pvrueide hit is also that no Regrater of threde no day be fore the houre of p'me And that he ne bye nouȝt no daye but only by the pounde at the moiste And that they that byen that that threde that they done hit to worken and sen that the threde be gode and counenable And tho that byen threde for to sellen that they hit sellen no where but in Chepyng . That in houses nor in shoppes And if any of that be oultaken that other dothe be in the m<sup>o</sup>cy of the Baillifs of vj<sup>o</sup> And if any Regrater byen other wise but the pounde of threde any daye before the houre of prime and ther of be oultaken seie he the Catell . And if any byer be hit man or be hit woman That ledith the seller to his house and him makyth not his full payment for the threde that hath bought and that anon and the pleynt be made to the baillifs The baillif<sup>o</sup> anon pay to the seller vp to the byers purs fulliche his payment And then Rere the baillif<sup>o</sup> the thyng<sup>e</sup> of the Catell of the byer and the byer be in the mercye of the Baillif<sup>o</sup> of xij<sup>o</sup>.

CAPITULUM XLJ<sup>o</sup>

[OF PURCHASING GOODS.]

Allso hit is purueide that if any man or woman ley his peny  
[Folio 21b] vpon any marchandyse tille that the Seller hym hath Graunted

the Marchaundise lefeth a peny to the profite of the Baillifs And gode leue be to the other That wolle that marchaundize Astir byen. And if any marchaund bye be laise money than by a ferthyng hole. But ys it be peltis to pchemyn be in þe m<sup>o</sup>cy to þe baillifs of vi

CAPITULUM XLIJ<sup>o</sup>

[OF PLEADING IN COURT.]

Purweide hit is also that here by forthwarde ne by myskennynge in the Courte pledyng but every Ryche and pore tell his grete sotheneise with owteñ vnderuemynge

CAPITULUM XLIIJ<sup>o</sup>

[CONCERNING WORKERS IN CLOTH.]

Allio hit is awarded that no maker of cloth ne put in his cloth thing that is called impiall tyngtuñ or worme ne of white Rayes dyzyng of barke ne non other fallse dyȝe And if any ther of be oþtaken lefe he the clothe or be in the mercy of the touñ of j marke And that no cloth ne threde be dyed of erthe but onlyche the threde that he putteth in the clothe impiall And if any other clothe be founden dyed of erthe and that clothe be the deiters and hit be by the counciell And the assente of him that hit owth Be allio that clothe loste to the town And if it be not the wille ne of the fente of hym that the clothe owth The deister for swere he the Crafte A yere and a day And that no deister maistre no clothe wi hym And if anny ther of be oþtaken fore swere he the Crafte A yere and a daye and no man make clothe but if the clothe be of Resonable seute that is for to seyne that the pure elne ne faile laise than a peny at the moste Than the beste elne and in the very impiall . i ob and if any ther of be oþtaken be he am<sup>o</sup>cyed to the [town] of vs. and if he be thryes oþtaken forswere he the Crafte A ȝere and a day

[Folio 22a.]

CAPITULUM XLIIIJ<sup>o</sup>

[CONCERNING NUISANCES.]

Purweide hit is also that no deister nor bocher nor other man ne woman not caste out at his dore into the kynges wey Grutte or dying of wod ne carione nor non other man<sup>e</sup> stynkkyng thyng ne boyltur of wode and if any hit do be in the m<sup>o</sup>cy to the Baillifs of xij<sup>s</sup>

CAPITULUM XLV<sup>o</sup>

## [CONCERNING BUTCHERS.]

Allio hit is purueide that no bocher from hense forwarde not haunte the office of the bocherye as a maister tille he have ȝeuен to the town iiiij. viij<sup>o</sup> os they in olde tyme were wonte to ȝeuен. And who the laise dothe to the towñ his Right thanne the marchaundize longeth. for the fraunchise of the towne to hauen after comune Right of the towñ

CAPITULUM XLVIJ<sup>o</sup>

## [ALSO CONCERNING BUTCHERS.]

Purueid hit is also that no bocher ne byen no porke but if he haue warantise of þe seller of clennes of porke An if he ne doo nott falle the harme vpon the bocher with owten anny Recoueryng of the seller

CAPITULUM XLVIIJ<sup>o</sup>

## [OF BUTCHERS SELLING UNWHOLESOME MEAT.]

Allio hit is purueide that no bocher nor other sellen <sup>[Folio 15b.]</sup> Sisemy flesh fresh ne flesh of a dede gote ne calidions of a thepe nor Nete nor hedys of Calueren nor of Nete nor suche man'e of sowle thynge But vnder the pillorie and if the thynge ben foundeñ in other stedis for to sellen Be thei loste to the bailliffs profite and the sismy be ȝeven to seke men of Seynt Leonards<sup>ac</sup>

CAPITULUM XLVIIIJ<sup>o</sup>

## [OF VENDORS OF WOOD.]

Purueide it is also that eȝy straunge woders ȝeuе of eȝy quarter of wode that he selith vij<sup>o</sup>. to the towñ. And if the oot of the woder herburgh the woder. with owten leve of the bailliffs And that woder that selith ne paye that hym oweth to paye of right And if the oot late hym passe with owten paying The hoite shall paye the vij<sup>o</sup> and shall ben Amereyed

CAPITULUM XLIX<sup>o</sup>

## [CONCERNING CHAPMEN.]

Allio it is purueide that eȝy Chapman or marchaund of the towñ of Norhampton that marchaundeth with the penyes of straunge men ȝeuе at eȝy hundred of ffelles that he byeth .iiiij<sup>o</sup>.

<sup>ac</sup> Saint Leonard's Hospital for lepers, situate near the south bridge, at Northampton.

And of euy sake of wolle .vj<sup>4</sup>. to the pfyte of the towñ and to the Bailliffs custome for a straunge man And that that fialleth to the tronage

CAPITULUM L<sup>o</sup>

[Folio 23a.]

## [TAX ON BUYING LAND.]

Pvrueide hit is Also that all tho that byen londe tenemēte or Rentis in Norhampton shulle zeuen at euy xx<sup>4</sup> that the payment .ij<sup>4</sup>. to the profyte of the touñ

CAPITULUM LI<sup>o</sup>

## [CONCERNING DYERS.]

Allō hit is ordeyned and purued that if any deyster dyȝe the clothe of any man wikkedeliche and therof be ouertaken lese his travell And be in the m'cye of the Baillifes of xij<sup>4</sup> for the trespace &c

CAPITULUM LIJ<sup>o</sup>

## [CONCERNING CLOTH WORKERS.]

Awarded it is allō that workers of clothes that Arnn clepid websters here biforewarde ne stente not vpon hir hustis to weweñ her clothes owen nor other And if any and therof be takeñ .ffrite he zeue to the toun ij<sup>4</sup> And if he be another tyme outake . he shall zeue to the toun halfe j marke . And if he another tyme be outaken lese he the clothe to the profit of the touñ And that euy wytē clothe by here byforward of . xxxij porters And the clothe impiall of xxvj . and of xxvij and the white Ray be hit of the same lenght And if any man will marchaundisen of penyes of the same lumbard or of peyns of straunge men . ffyrste it was ordeyned that he shulde zeuen of euy cloth to the toun .vj<sup>4</sup> And aftir it was ordeyned .ij<sup>4</sup> and of owene clothus to the touñ of euy colour atte clothe a peynye And who it halpe or conseyleple zeue to þe toun ij<sup>4</sup> with Reles

CAPITULUM LIJ<sup>o</sup>

[Folio 23b.]

## [CONCERNING VENDORS OF WOOD.]

Awarded it is also that no woder that bryngeth wode in to Norhampton ne make no g̃neryng therof But if it be in þaunce of fowre gode men and tho Sworeñ ther too ne no gaderyng leide

to ne put to that wode but in the þſent of tho foure Sworā  
 And that no woder not selleñ of his wode tille the saye therof  
 beforne be made by thre assigned thereto and Sworā and no woder  
 ne shall his wode sellen to no itraunge man And if any itraunge  
 man thereof be ouer taken leſe he the marchaundize . And if the  
 woder ther of be oūtakēn be in the m<sup>2</sup>cye to the toun of . xl<sup>o</sup> . And  
 that no woder sellen his wode but by assayd that with Jnne the  
 . xxx . dayes that he shall come and aft voyde the touñ and if he  
 wille his wode sellen all holl to men of the town goode leue be hit  
 and if any itraunge woders make garner with stede abowte enuiron  
 in the byenge of xxiiij myle abowte Norhamptoñ . for to fle the  
 assaye And no man of the toun ne wend owte of the toun to  
 marchaunden And if any deister or assayour be ſiste or by heſte  
 or by other queyntise make ther wode of gretter price than hit is  
 worthi and therof ben oūtakēn for he ſwere he crafte a yere and  
 adaye

CAPITULUM LIII<sup>o</sup>[CONCERNING DISTRESS MADE BY ONE POSSESSING ONLY  
A LIMITED ESTATE IN LAND.]

Awarded it is alio that if any man be feffed of londs tenement  
 [Folio 24a.] or Rente and he tho thynges to hym feffed wolde wasten or  
 diſtryuen and the cheſe Lorde of whom he holdith offe therof be  
 acceyned and cometh to the bailliffs and make to hym the ſhewyng  
 that his tenaunt wyll diſtruuen and wasten his tenement in leſyng  
 of his rente . The Bailliffs a non right ſhull gon to the tenement  
 and ſo thei fynden be it tymber or other thynges tymberd they  
 ſhull done attachen and if owte be by hynden to the cheſe lorde  
 of the fee of his Annuell Rente or of other ſuyces to hym Skyl-  
 fully owed and bi witnesſe puced than ſhullen the Bailliffs  
 delyueren the attachment founded in that fee to the cheſſe lorde  
 in name of diſtreſſe and if any man haue ouz̄te bouz̄te of the  
 tenement or owte boron awey the bailliffs ſhullen don it attachen  
 in whos hande the thynḡ may be founde tille the nexte pleres And  
 than bi trewe Juggement ſhall be iugged and awarded if that  
 thyng that is in that man̄e bouȳte or borñ a wey ſhall dwellen to  
 hym that ſo hath bouȳte hit or hit borñ awey or if the thyng  
 ſhall be to hym lorñ And if the ſale be right be forn don be  
 than alio the ſeller as the byer grenoflyche Am̄cied And if the

tenaunte make grement to the lorde of the Arrurages and hym fynde sufficiaunt sikerneſſe to tymbren it vp agayne and to make him his tenement ageyn for to ſauē his rente by thanne that ilke attachment bi that sikerneſſe to the tenement delyued

CAPITULUM LV<sup>o</sup>

[OF A MAN WHO HOLDS OF HIS LORD BY SERVICE, AND IS DISTURBED BY THE HIGHER CHIEF LORD.]

Awarded Hit is also that if any man holde tenement or ten  
[Folio 24b.]  
 of his cheſe lorde by a due seruyce and bi a seruyce named  
 and that ilke teneaunt his due ſ<sup>o</sup>uyſe to his Cheſe lorde hath paid  
 and other more eyf that tenement haue distreynd and seruyſe  
 haue aiked ther of And the tenaunte by deſtreſſe to the plees hath  
 comen and shewed that he his ſ<sup>o</sup>uyſe haue zelden to his cheſe  
 lord that mene is bi twyxfen hem and the moř eyf cheſe lorde  
 distreyning and that ilke mene ne haue not hym ther of quyte  
 and aiketh ther of a warde and the Courte thanne bi counſell of  
 the Courte ſhall ben awarded that the tenant wende to the cheſe  
 lorde mene and he his due hath zelde and taken with hym good  
 men and trewe and him pie coſaundying that he hym a quyte  
 a geyns the ey cheſe lorde that him hath distreynd and greued  
 by his deſaute And if he that ilke mene ne him aquyte nouyt as  
 is be forn ſeide gode men bi ſuche he hath doň that coſaundying  
 and if the thyng be witneſſe ſeid bi tho gode men that he hath  
 ſo don as it is ſeide thanne be aſkyng helpe of the Courte that  
 ſhall hym ben warded that he ſhall pursue his fee ageyns the  
 ſoueyn cheſe lorde that hym hath distreynd and that not paied  
 to his cheſe lorde mene till that ilke cheſe lorde mene oute of the  
 harme of that other haue delyued and fully aquyted

CAPITULUM LVJ<sup>o</sup>

[CONCERNING DEBTORS AND CREDITORS.]

Purveide it is also that if any man of Norþt his godis and his  
 Catellis to any man of the Courte knyght or pſoñ or other till a  
 ſteyne day or tyme haue lent or borowed and the dettūr the  
 grement to his creaunſor at the ſtayne daie ſette ne to forne ne  
 haue not made & aftir the tyme cometh into the touñ of Norhamptōn  
 with hors or with other Catell and the creaunſour cometh to  
 the bailliffs and maketh a pleynt of his dett that wrongfulliche

[Folio 25a.]

he with holdeth hym his dette gode leve be to the bailliffs and horie & the Catelles of the dett<sup>r</sup> founden in the power of his oste ther as he was herborowed defenden and if the hoste the horie ne the catell of the dett<sup>r</sup> ne will not vndertakyn for to save Thanne the bailliffs shall of hf his power the katells with hym lede and do hem saueliche kepen till hit so be that be don to the parties And if the Oste or Ostasse or hir s<sup>t</sup>eyne Atturney will vndir taken and with holden and to saven the Catelles of the dettour and the Cattelles beyng in her warde and the dett<sup>r</sup> ther astir warde him depart owte of the touñ with owte lefe of the bailliffs and with owte makyn greemēt to the Creaunsour of the dette The Oste or the Ostasse hem they zeldon fulliche to make the paiement of the dette to the Creaunso<sup>r</sup> Aftir that the Creaunso<sup>r</sup> Resonablych shewen and pven may whiche done he shall And if a knyght passe bi the touñ of Norht and owe dette to any man of the touñ and no dwellyng maketh in the town gode leve be hit to the Bailliffs bi the swte of the Creaunso<sup>r</sup> and by his pleynte the harneys of the knyght to Attacheñ ahd hit with holden till Right be don to the pties but his Palfrey that he Rydith on he may not attachen And if the Bailliffs tachen the Catelles of any man for dette that he oweth and astir that he hath him Attached lat the attachment and the dett<sup>r</sup> departe with owten gre doyng or paying to the creaunsou<sup>r</sup> And that by 3ysfe that the bailife hath taken of the dett<sup>r</sup> And that this thyng be oultaken the Bailliffs be holden hollyche to make the payng and the greyng to the creaunsour for the fravde that he hath don and that with owte delaye

[Folio 25b.]

CAPITULUM LVIJ<sup>o</sup>

[CONCERNING THE OUSTING OF A MAN FROM HIS FREEHOLD]

BY INTRUSION OR ABATEMENT.]

Also it is purveide that no man entre in to any tenement be intirision or bi abatement an hu and crie therof come to the bailliffs the bailif with oute more delay shall go to the tenement and don of the strenyge and take the tenement in to the kynges hond till the next plees with byr tytulys of Ryght if thei have titules And thanne in pleyñ plees shall ben asked bi the Courte to the pties that thei shewen what thei hauen of Ryght for hym.

And he that mooste sufficient titule haue for hym shall be putte  
in his Seelyng. And if that other partie will purewe Aftir he  
hym p'chas þe beste wyse he cane

CAPITULUM LVIIJ<sup>o</sup>

[AS TO A MAN WHO IS BORN IN THE TOWN ENTERING HIS NAME  
ON THE TOWN REGISTER AND PAYING HIS FEES.]

Syn hit contened is in viages of the toun of Norht of Olde  
tyme vied that all the Children of burgeis of the same toun  
sholde payen to the vse of the same Touñ for to Rejoise the  
ffraunceis. v<sup>l</sup>. iiiij<sup>d</sup>. And in a batyng of the forseid payment. John  
Longwile Meire of Norht<sup>208</sup> by the assent of Phelipp Euard  
William Biste Gefferey Herleston Coroners of the same Towne  
Adam Cotebrooke William Elys Thomas Staunford Wouter of  
Patteshull William Euard Adamffyst Adam Earlemonger Henry  
Roger John of Stratton Waut<sup>9</sup> Cay Gylbert baker & William  
Sotell to gedur with all the comunalte of the forseide town  
Arā assentid in the chyrche of Seynte Gyle of Norht the  
Sonenday next Affore the feste of Seint Denys. [7th October, 1341]  
In the yere of the Reigne of King Edward the thyrde aftir the  
conquest the xv. yere. That euy maner man that is borne in the  
foreseyde town And his fadir hath ben At lotte and Scotte and  
in comū charge of the forseide town. Allso sone os that he wille  
marchaundisēn come before the meire and Coroners in the pleyn  
plees of the forseide town and make his othe in this maner  
that he shalbe feithfull and lawfull to oure lorde the Kyng  
and to his heyres & Justifiable to meyre and Bailliffs and the  
ffredomes and the viages of the forseide town to his power  
mayntene. as moite playnly hit shalbe schewed hym at the  
making of his othe And that he paye the fees to the Clerke  
and Seriaunte of olde lyme vied that is to witte. iiiij<sup>d</sup> to the  
Clerke and .ij<sup>d</sup> to the S<sup>9</sup>geaunte and be his name entered in the  
Regestre withouten other grement makynge to the meyre or to  
the town from hennes forwarde And also that yif any of the  
condycion beforneisde or any other marchaundisēn beforne that  
he make his othe beforneisde leſe he the marchaundis to the

[Folio 26a.]

[Folio 26b.]

NOTA

<sup>208</sup> John Longvile was mayor of the town, prior to 1377, at which time the present list in the Town Hall commences.

pfeite of the town And also the meyre and comynalte ben Assented  
That if any man of the fraunchise of the forseide town Enpled  
anothyr in the Courte of Norhampton be the defendaunt of the  
ffraunchise or non in plee of dette of xij<sup>4</sup> or of leise that he  
that is empaled may done his lawe be his owne honde . So  
that he that shall done his lawe bee of good fame And also  
the same vsage; be holden in plee of dispsonement so that the  
pleyntif be of the ffraunchise be the defendant Denzeyn or  
foreyne . And also the forfeide meire & comunalte ben Assentid  
that in plee of dette or of trespass that towcheth dispsonement  
that the pleyntyff Aftyr the lawe waged haue but oon essayne .  
And in affermyng of theise poyntes Aboue feide . The comoun  
seall of the town of Norht is putte for to lasten att all dayes

ORDINACō FACT<sup>9</sup> TEMPE  
WILLI RUSSHEDEN <sup>209</sup>  
SEN DE CARPENTAR  
CAPITULUM LIX<sup>o</sup>

[A]D pfectum acetiam & opportunitatem Carpentariorū infra villam Norþt vñitat<sup>9</sup> & deinceps excercend p voluntatem & cōem Assensum dēe Artis artifissēm infra villam p̄dict<sup>9</sup> comoraur aliuduo & eoꝝ p̄catu Ita ordinat<sup>9</sup> est p discretionem maioris & consilij sui modo quo subsequit<sup>r</sup>. In p'mis qd int<sup>r</sup> Artifices p̄dcos constituant<sup>r</sup> duo supervisores dēe Artis de discretioribꝫ viris & magis idoneis ad superisend & supvidend. certos usus & consuetudines dēe Artis similt<sup>9</sup> & in defectibꝫ in Arte p̄dict<sup>9</sup> inuestigand & in eisdem corrigend seu maiori & suo cons̄ fidelit<sup>9</sup> intimand sedm dēe Artis assiduum facultatem p̄ scrutari dēi supuisores fidelit<sup>9</sup> non desistat. Similiter vf p̄dēi supuisores & eoꝝ successores comparere studeant semel in Anno ad tempus cōsuetū int<sup>r</sup> eosdem

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME  
OF WILLIAM RUSSHEDEN SEN<sup>9</sup>  
CONCERNING CARPENTERS  
CHAPTER LIX

For the progress as well as [Folio 27a.] for the convenience of the regular carpenters within the town of Northampton and of those hereafter to be employed by the wish and common assent of the craftsmen of the said craft constantly dwelling within the aforesaid town and at their petition It is thus ordained by the discretion of the mayor and his council in manner following First that among the aforesaid craftsmen there be appointed two supervisors of the said craft of the more discreet men and more fit for the superintending and supervising the fixed usages and customs of the said craft and likewise for the investigating the shortcomings in the aforesaid craft and in making correction in the same or for giving faithful intimation to the mayor and his council and the said supervisors fail not to make diligent enquiry as to the continual practice of the said craft Likewise that the said supervisors and their successors be zealous to appear once in the year at the customary time appointed among

<sup>209</sup> William Rushden was mayor of the town in 1430-1; and William Russchedin in 1439-40.

bit<sup>9</sup> vt scilt citra festum Corporis Xpi in Gilda Aula ville Northampton coram maiore & suo cons<sup>s</sup> p tempe existentib; tunc Ad onus ibm sup omnes Carpenterios infra libertatem ville Northampton comorant<sup>9</sup> side media<sup>210</sup> iure Rite suscipiendo & fidelit<sup>9</sup> vsq; ad Anni illius plenariam reuolu<sup>cō</sup>em parit<sup>9</sup> obseruan- dam. Completo v<sup>ro</sup> illo Anno ac p eosdem supervisores omnib; & singul<sup>9</sup> ex officio content<sup>9</sup> formalit<sup>9</sup> pactis p cōem assensum elige debent de Artificib; pdcis & alios duos dēe Artis viros simili modo & tempe int<sup>9</sup> eisdem consuet<sup>9</sup>. Ad disponend<sup>e</sup> in arte pdēa p coi vtilitate vere similit<sup>9</sup>. P<sup>9</sup>tea & ordinat<sup>9</sup> est in<sup>t</sup> ipsos [Folio 27b.] Artifices qd superiores sic inf<sup>9</sup> ipsos constituti Recipient de singulis dēe Artis magistris infra libertatem ville Northampton opante semet in Anno quatuor denar ad tortas<sup>211</sup> & certa luminaria inter eisdēm temporib; & locis assignat<sup>9</sup> exhibend Similit<sup>9</sup> & ordinat<sup>9</sup> est qd quicunq;

them that is to say within the feast of Corpus Christi [the Thursday after Trinity Sunday] in the guildhall of the town of Northampton before the mayor and his council for the time being to undertake the business there for all the carpenters dwelling within the liberty of the town of Northampton fairly lawfully rightly and faithfully to observe it in like manner till the full revolution of that year But when that year is completed and when by the same supervisors all and singular the things that were to be attended to in respect of their office have been duly performed they ought by common consent to choose from the aforesaid craftsmen two other men of the said craft in the same way and at the time usual among them to manage in the aforesaid craft for the common advantage in the best way Moreover it is ordained among the craftsmen themselves that the supervisors so appointed among them shall receive from each of the masters of the said craft working within the liberty of the town of Northampton once in the year 4<sup>d</sup> for torches (?) and the rest of the lights to be shown among the same at times and places assigned Likewise also it is ordained that every carpenter

<sup>210</sup> Media, probably meaning fairness between the parties.

<sup>211</sup> Tortas, probably a barbarous word for "torches."

carpentari<sup>s</sup> primo ville Norhampton adueniens opandi ḡfa in Arte p diem aut p gross<sup>9</sup> qd ipe finem faciat artificib<sup>z</sup> eiudem artis ville Norht . xij . dena<sup>r</sup> & Maiori itm & Alios . xij dena<sup>r</sup> ad vñum ville pdēe soluend<sup>e</sup> si pdēus carpentarius itm moram faciat vltra quatuor Septimanas Solumodo ad laborand<sup>e</sup> Simili<sup>r</sup> si ipe carpentarius sit magis<sup>r</sup> nūcupatus & in villa Norht diutius q<sup>m</sup> p vnū Annū itm moram faciat ad opande qd pdēus ille Carpentarius sit in libertatem ville Northamptōn Admiss<sup>9</sup> sedm vñus & consuetudines ville pdēe sub pena xl<sup>4</sup> Maiori ad opus villate pdēe soluend<sup>e</sup> & cotidiem dena<sup>r</sup> supvisorib<sup>z</sup> dēe Artis reddende Ad lumina<sup>r</sup> pdcta fidelit exhibende Jt̄m qd quilis carpentarius p diem opans in Arte sua dumodo non suiset pdēus Artifex Apprenticius infra villam pdēam aut nūl sūlt subtuitōe Alicuius magis<sup>r</sup> dēe Artis ville pdēe solue<sup>r</sup> debet maiori . xij<sup>4</sup> ut sup<sup>r</sup> et supervisorib<sup>z</sup> ejusdem Artis . xij<sup>4</sup> Jt̄m qd nullus Artifex dēe Artis ad libertatem ville Norht Admiss<sup>9</sup>

first coming to the town of Northampton for the purpose of working in the craft by the day or by the piece shall pay a fine to the craftsmen of the same art of the town of Northampton of 12<sup>4</sup> and to the mayor there other 12<sup>4</sup> to be paid to the use of the town aforesaid if the aforesaid carpenter stay in the same place beyond four weeks only to work Likewise if the carpenter himself be one styled a master and if he stay there in the town of Northampton longer than one year to work that the said carpenter shall be admitted to the liberty of the town of Northampton according to the usages and customs of the town aforesaid under a penalty of 40 pence to be paid to the mayor for the work of the township aforesaid and of paying a penny a day to the supervisors of the said craft for the faithful showing forth of the aforesaid lights Also that every carpenter working by the day in his craft provided that the aforesaid craftsman be not an apprentice within the town aforesaid nor under the instruction of some master of the said craft of the town aforesaid ought to pay to the mayor 12<sup>4</sup> as above and to the supervisors of the said craft 12<sup>4</sup> Also that no craftsman of the said craft admitted to the liberty of the town of North-

[Folio 28a.]

Aliquem alium virum dēc Artis Admissum extra Cūr ville Norht impletatet nisi p'us actōnem suam in Cūr ibidem attemptaurit sub pena xl<sup>4</sup> maiori et xl<sup>4</sup>. supuisoribz artis pdēe soluendi. Item et qui cunqz dēc artis infra libertatem ville Norht qui ad sumonitōem debitam pdēoꝝ supuisoꝝ seu nōie eoꝝ p'conis cōit<sup>9</sup> Aſſignat<sup>9</sup> ad certos diem diem & locum ppter comūnē vtilitatem dēc artis ibm ptractandē obediſ contempſerit incurrit debet penam solutōem unius libre cere dēis supuisoribz soluend niſi excusacō competens potit eundem excusare. Si quis Autem dēc Artis magis<sup>9</sup> infra villam Norht qui huic ordinatiōi contraveniſ plumpſerit similiſ incurrit debet solutōem xl<sup>4</sup> Arti pdēe & xl<sup>4</sup> maiori si ille cōvictus inde fuit<sup>9</sup> coram maiore & suo consilio. Item qd nullus gardianus seu dēc artis supuisor aliquem p'uatum finem inter partes Artis pdēe faciat neqz aliqua Aſſ concelet A Maioꝝ vel balt ville pdēe in p'judicē officij maioratus

ampton implead any other man of the said craft admitted without the court of the town of Northampton unless he shall first have tried his action in the court there under penalty of paying 40<sup>d</sup> to the mayor and 40<sup>d</sup> to the supervisors of the art aforesaid Also whosoever of the said craft within the liberty of the town of Northampton shall have refused to obey the due summons of the aforesaid supervisors or of the crier commonly appointed in their name at fixed day and place on business connected with the common advantage of the said craft ought to incur the penalty of paying one pound of wax to be paid to the said supervisors unless a competent excuse shall be able to excuse him But if any master of the said craft within the town of Northampton shall have presumed to contravene this ordinance he ought similarly to incur the payment of 40<sup>d</sup> to the aforesaid craft and 40<sup>d</sup> to the mayor if he shall be convicted of it before the mayor and his council Also that no warden or supervisor of the said craft shall make any private fine between the parties of the craft aforesaid nor shall conceal any from the mayor or bailiffs of the town aforesaid to the prejudice of the office of the mayor or bailiffs under a penalty of

vel battivoꝝ sub pena . x° villat<sup>2</sup>  
 Norht soluende tociens quociens  
 inde fuit<sup>2</sup> p̄dēus supuifor seu  
 gardianus coram maiore & suo  
 cōſilio cōuictus modo consiliij Et  
 qd nullus Magister dēe Artis  
 Aliquem virum in opam suam  
 recipiat niſi īpm nouit bene  
 conuafonis & gesture vt p̄ ipo  
 respondere penes Eccleſie Dei  
 sacre culturam valeat & terre  
 Regalia instituta &c

to<sup>3</sup> to be paid to the township (?)  
 of Northampton as often as the  
 aforesaid supervisor or warden  
 shall be convicted of it in the  
 same manner before the mayor  
 and his council And that no  
 master of the said craft shall  
 receive any man to help him  
 unless he shall know him to be  
 of good conversation and conduct  
 and can answer for him as to his  
 respect for the Holy Church of  
 God and the royal institutions of  
 the land &c

[Folio 28b.]

ORDINACō FACT̄ DE ESSOII<sup>212</sup>  
 TEMPE JOHIS WELLIS MAJORIS

ORDINANCE MADE CONCERNING  
 ESSOINERS IN THE TIME OF  
 JOHN WELLIS<sup>213</sup> MAYOR  
 CHAPTER LX &c

CAPITULUM LX<sup>2</sup> &c  
 [A]D congregatoem h̄t<sup>2</sup> in  
 Ecclia sc̄i Egidij die  
 dominica px post feſtum sc̄i  
 Egidij Anno regni Regis Henrici  
 quarti post conq̄m tertiodecimo  
 ex. Assensu Maioris xxiiij<sup>or</sup> bur-  
 gen<sup>2</sup> & totius cōitatis ibm con-  
 gregatis concordatum est & p̄  
 firmoſtabilitūquod quilit imptatus  
 in Cuſ ville Norht p̄ Aliquod  
 pl̄tum & inuenit huiusmodi pleḡ  
 legitimate ſcdm legem & conſuetu-  
 dinem regni Angl necnon ſcdm  
 conſuetudinem dēe ville A tempe  
 quo memoria hoīm non exiſtit  
 viſita<sup>2</sup>

At a meeting held in the  
 church of S<sup>t</sup> Giles on the Sunday  
 [4th September 1412] next after  
 the feast of S<sup>t</sup> Giles in the 13th  
 year of the reign of Henry the  
 Fourth after the Conquest by the  
 assent of the mayor the 24  
 burgesses and the whole com-  
 munity there assembled it was  
 agreed and firmly established that  
 anyone impleaded in the court of  
 the town of Northampton by any  
 plea shall find lawful sureties  
 according to the laws and custom  
 of the realm of England as well  
 as according to the usual custom  
 of the said town from the time  
 beyond which the memory of  
 man does not reach and shall be

<sup>212</sup> Essonii, probably a Latinised form of "Essoiners"; or persons who excused themselves from attending on summons.

<sup>213</sup> John Wellis or Wellyes was mayor of the town in 1411-2.

pot<sup>9</sup>it te<sup>r</sup> p quaecumq<sup>z</sup> officiar<sup>m</sup>  
videit Seriaeunte<sup>s</sup> battio<sup>s</sup> seu  
quecumq<sup>z</sup> Alm legm d<sup>m</sup> Regis  
esso<sup>n</sup> & huiusmodi esso<sup>n</sup> licite  
congaudere Absq<sup>z</sup> impedimento  
Aliquali

DE CUSTOD TERRE & HERED  
TEMPE JOHIS GREGORY MAIORIS  
ANNO PRIMO HENRICI QUINTI

CAPITULUM LXI<sup>m</sup>

[Folio 39a.]

[A]D husteng tent<sup>9</sup> ibm die  
lune px post festum sc̄i  
Petri Aduincta Anno regni Regis  
Henrici quinti post conqm S<sup>d</sup>o  
Johes Gregory Maior ville North  
ex Assentu xxiiij<sup>or</sup> comburg  
eiusdem ville de consilio suo iurat<sup>9</sup>  
Assignauit Thome Hunt dehaush<sup>m</sup>  
& Agnet vii sue custodiam Johis  
Buckyng<sup>h</sup>m fit & heredis Johis  
Buckyng<sup>h</sup>m filij quondm Ma<sup>g</sup>ri  
Henrici Buckyngh<sup>m</sup> de Northon  
in custodia d<sup>e</sup>i maioris ut de iure  
villate ad tunc existentis ad eum  
bñ & honeste guðnandum quoisq<sup>z</sup>  
ad suam plenarium puenit<sup>9</sup> etatem  
.Ac omia eidem Johi Buckyngh<sup>m</sup>  
necessar<sup>9</sup> medio tempe put statu suo  
conuenit<sup>9</sup> diligent<sup>9</sup> pruidende nec  
non de receptionib<sup>z</sup> exitum t<sup>9</sup>ra<sup>z</sup>

able three times by some one  
of the officials viz serjeants of  
the bailiffs or some other of the  
lieges of our lord the King to  
be esoined and to enjoy esoin  
of this kind without hindrance  
of any sort

CONCERNING THE CUSTODY OF  
LAND AND AN HEIR IN THE TIME  
OF JOHN GREGORY<sup>214</sup> MAYOR IN  
THE FIRST YEAR OF HENRY V

CHAPTER LXI

At a court of hustings held  
there on the Monday [6th August,  
1414] next after the feast of St  
Peter ad Vincula in the second  
year of the reign of King Henry  
the fifth after the Conquest John  
Gregory Mayor of the town of  
Northampton by the assent of 24  
burgesses of the same town  
sworn of his council assigned to  
Thomas Hunt of Haversham and  
Agnes his wife the custody of  
John Buckingham son and heir  
of John Buckingham late son  
of Master Henry Buckingham  
of Northampton in the custody  
of the said mayor or by right  
of the township (?) existing for  
this purpose to govern him well  
and honestly until he shall arrive  
at his full age And all things  
necessary to the same John  
Buckingham in the meanwhile  
as shall be suitable to his position  
diligently to provide moreover as  
concerning the receipts of his

<sup>214</sup> John Gregory was mayor of the town in 1413-4.

& tenementoz suoꝝ vna cum exp̄n eidm Maiori aut successoribꝫ eius tociens quociens cum ad hoc fuꝫ int requitati fidelem compotū ad reddende. Et sup hoc ijdem Thomas Hunt & Agn̄ inuenerunt pleꝫ & manucaptores ad p̄missa om̄ia & singula ex pte sue p̄tacta fideliꝫ obieuanda. Videlit Joñem Curteys Capellanus & Thomam Blaby de Norht M̄cer vtrumq; eoꝝ sub pena . xl . ti

lands and tenements together with his expenses to the same Mayor or his successors as often as they shall be required so to do to render a faithful account And for this the same Thomas Hunt and Agnes have found sureties and bondsmen faithfully to observe the premise all and singular mentioned on their part viz John Curteys Chaplain and Thomas Blaby of Northampton Mercer each of them under a penalty of 40 pounds

#### HOW THE BAILIFFS OF NORTHAMPTON SHALL TAKE BAIL CHAPTER LXII &c

By reason that the bailiffs of the town of Northampton before the hours fixed have too grievously taken from the free men of the same town under pretence of their office excessive sums of money for bail suit and to give them ease to the great damage and annoyance of the men aforesaid Therefore at the assembly held in the church of Saint Giles of the said town before John Spryng<sup>115</sup> then and there mayor the Thursday next after Rogation Sunday [9th May, 1415] in the third year of the reign of our lord the king Henry fifth since the Conquest by the absent of the 24 coburgesses and all the commonalty of the same

[Folio 29b.]

#### QUOMODO BAILLI NORHT FACRENT LEZ MEYMPRIS CAPITULUM LXIJ<sup>a</sup> &c

[A] cause q̄ lez baillifsde la ville de Norht deuant ces heures esicantes ont trop greouement pris deꝫ hom̄es due mesme la ville enfauchiseꝫ p colour de lour office excessiueꝫ suueꝫ de moneye pur maymprise suete & Aile a eux faire agraudre damage & Arrerisment deꝫ hom̄es fuyiditꝫ Pur ceo Alasemble temiz en eglise de seynt Gyle du dite ville deuant John Spryng adonq; illeꝫ Maif le jordy p̄schein Ap̄s le clauſe de Park lan du regne n̄e fr̄ le Roye Henry quint puis le queit tiers p assent de .xxiiij. comburgenseꝫ & tout le Cōialte du meſme

<sup>115</sup> A John Spryng, Spryng or Spriggy, was mayor of the town in 1410-1, 1414-5, 1415-6, 1420-1, 1425-6, 1426-7, 1428-9, 1430-7, probably father and son. John Spring was a member for the town at the parliaments held 1st Henry IV., and John Spriggy 9th Henry V.

la ville illeq̄s Assemblez ordenez estt & pur toutz iouez establez q̄ les baillifs du dēe ville quore sunt & q̄ en temps Auenir serrount ne p̄ndrerent defore enanant dascum hoīne enfranchise de la ville emisditz Arrestu

the fees of a  
man arrested by  
writ lett to  
bayll

p̄ bref n̄e Se: le Roye mainpnable pur mainpris sute & aise a luz sayre outre xx<sup>d</sup> Et le Clerk du lez ditz bailiffs ne p̄ndera outre vj<sup>d</sup> purson fee Et lez quatre s̄ieautz de lez baillifs ne p̄ndrant pur los feez outre iiiij<sup>d</sup>. cest assauour cheicun j<sup>d</sup>. Et si alcunz dez baillifs suisdits reteignet en prisoun ascum hoīne de la condicōn suisdēe ap̄s ceo q̄ cely hoīne eit profri A eux deux mainpuōs tuffisantz pur eux garder sau damage encontre le Roye & la ptye de la deliūance hors de prison. Ou sils p̄ignent pur mainprise suete & aise fair outre le Somē de xx<sup>d</sup> suisditz . q̄ adonq̄s bñ lirra adit hoīne arestu de recouer des ditz Baillifs la value de la moneye a la double illi p̄ eux ressu encontr cest ordinance & ceo p̄ la survewe del Maire q̄ s̄ra pur le temps & de son counsaill et ialemeyns fez damagez a estre taxez p̄ mesme la mayre & soun counsaill pur souū emprisonement

[Folio 3va.]

town at which it is ordered and for ever established that the bailiffs of the said town who are and who in times to come shall not take hereafter of any free man of the town beforesaid arrested by writ of our lord the king for bail suit and to give him ease above 20 pence And the clerk of the said bailiff shall not take above sixpence for his fee And the four sergeants of the bailiffs shall not take for their fees above 4 pence that is to say each 1 penny And if any of the bailiffs aforesaid keep in prison any man of the condition aforesaid after that that man has offered to them two bails sufficient to guard them saving damage against the king and the party for his deliverance out of prison Or if they take for bail suit and to give ease over the sum of 20 pence aforesaid that then good leave to the man arrested to recover of the said bailiffs the value of the money to double that by them received contrary to this ordinance and therefore for the use of the mayor who shall be for the time and of his counsel and moreover make damage to other taxes for the same mayor and his counsel for his imprisonment

ORDINACO FACT P ARTE ALLU-  
TARIOX TEMPE JOHIS LONDHM  
MAIORIS ANNO RR HENRICI  
QUARTI POST CONQVM TERTIO  
CAPITULUM LXIII<sup>o</sup>

DIE LUNE px poit sū sci  
Dionisij Anno r̄ r̄ Henr̄ quarti post  
conqñ f̄tio. Ad coīnodum ville p  
Joñem Londh̄m Maiorem ville  
Norht ex assensu xxiiij<sup>o</sup> de consilio  
suo iurat<sup>o</sup> ac p assentum tocius  
artis decornysers<sup>216</sup> Crafte in eadm̄  
villa ordinatū est quift homo de  
Arte p̄dēa impos̄um incipiens  
ad tenend Shopam de eadem arte  
soluat finem de vj<sup>o</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> ad eius  
inceptō tam de tempe elaps  
qñ de tempe futuř except<sup>o</sup> illis  
qui antea fecerunt finem scđm  
cons̄ eiusdem artis in dēa villa  
Norht visitat<sup>o</sup> Et qd bene licebit  
Hugoni Brixworth Wittmo Stokton  
Wittmo Pirye cornys &  
Hugoni Hikedon Magris nunc p  
Anno futuro p dēm Maiorem  
electe de

ORDINANCE MADE FOR THE  
CRAFT OF CORDWAINERS IN THE  
TIME OF JOHN LONDHAM<sup>217</sup>  
MAYOR IN THE THIRD YEAR  
OF THE REIGN OF HENRY THE  
FOURTH AFTER THE CONQUEST

CHAPTER LXIII

On the Monday next after  
the feast of S Denys [Monday,  
16th October, 1401] in the third  
year of the reign of Henry the  
fourth after the Conquest For  
the advantage of the town by  
John Londham Mayor of the  
town of Northampton by the  
assent of 24 of his council  
sworn and with the assent of  
the whole craft of the "corn-  
ysers crafte" in the same to  
which it was ordained that every  
man of the craft aforesaid here-  
after commencing to hold a shop  
for the same craft shall pay a  
fine of 6<sup>o</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> at its commence-  
ment as well for time past as  
for time to come excepting  
those who have heretofore made  
a fine according to the usual  
custom of the said craft in  
the said town of Northampton  
And that it shall be allowed  
to Hugh Brixworth William  
Stokton William Pirye cornysers  
and to Hugh Hikedon now  
chosen masters for the coming  
year by the said Mayor con-

[Folio 3ob.]

<sup>216</sup> Bailey gives Cordineer as another form of Cordwainers.

<sup>217</sup> John Londham, or Louthehal was mayor of the town in 1401-2. John Londham was member for the town at the parliament held 1st Henry IV.

eadem arte ac alijs magris qui p  
tempe suint<sup>9</sup> impo<sup>9</sup>um eligend  
dēos . vj<sup>9</sup> viij<sup>4</sup> . de quott de eadē  
arte sic shopam incipient leuar  
& xl<sup>4</sup> inde solu<sup>9</sup> maiori qui p  
tempe suit<sup>9</sup> ad opus ville & alios  
xl<sup>4</sup> inde penes eosdm magros ad  
opus dēe Artis retinere & dis-  
pon<sup>9</sup>e put eis melius videbit<sup>9</sup>  
expedire . Videt in tortis et alijs  
lumina<sup>9</sup> circa eucaristiam & sep-  
ultur<sup>9</sup> mortuo<sup>9</sup> . ad honorem ville .  
Et vlt<sup>9</sup>ius ordinatum est p dēos  
maiores & xxiiij<sup>or</sup> qd bñ liceat  
dēis magris ad finem dēi Anni  
sui ex alieno tocius dēe Artis  
p se i<sup>9</sup>pos alios magros de eadem  
arte elig<sup>9</sup>e & sic de anno in  
annū i<sup>9</sup>pos magros sic electos  
maiori qui p tempe suit<sup>9</sup> ad fac-  
iend iuramentū eis adiungend  
p<sup>9</sup>sentare . & dēi magri sup sacrā  
iurat ac alij magri qui pro tempe  
su<sup>9</sup>nt supvideant om̄es defectus  
dēe artis & p<sup>9</sup>sentent Maiori qui  
p tempe su<sup>9</sup>it om̄es transgressores  
eiusdem artis vna cum defectub<sup>9</sup>  
eo<sup>9</sup>dem . Ita qd p maiorem &  
co<sup>9</sup>ilī su<sup>9</sup>m scdm quantitatē eo<sup>9</sup>  
delicti debite pot<sup>9</sup>unt puniri &  
castigari . Et si aliquis de

[Folio 31a.]

the fees of a  
shomaker that  
sett th<sup>9</sup> vp a  
shoppe

cerning the said craft and to  
other masters who for the time  
shall be hereafter chosen to levy  
the said 6<sup>1</sup> 8<sup>4</sup> from every man  
so commencing a shop for the  
same craft and to pay 40<sup>4</sup> of  
it to the Mayor for the time  
being for the work of the town  
and to retain the other 40<sup>4</sup> of  
it with the masters themselves  
and to dispose of it as shall  
seem to be most expedient for  
them viz in torches and other  
lights about the Eucharist and  
burial of the dead to the honour  
of the town And further it was  
ordained by the said Mayor and  
24 that it be allowed to the  
said masters at the end of their  
said year by the assent of the  
whole of the said craft to choose  
by themselves other masters of  
the said craft and so from year  
to year to present these mas-  
ters so chosen to the Mayor for  
the time being to take the oath  
appointed for them And the  
said masters being sworn upon  
the Sacrament and the other  
masters who have been for the  
time shall supervise all short-  
comings of the said craft and  
shall present to the Mayor for  
the time being all transgressors  
of the same craft together with  
the shortcomings of the same  
So that by the mayor and his  
council according to the extent  
of their fault they can be duly  
punished and chastised and is

arte p<sup>o</sup>dēa in p<sup>o</sup>dēa vitt Norht  
comorans ad sumonitōem dēoꝝ  
maꝝroꝝ vel alicui<sup>a</sup> eoꝝdem aut  
alius eoꝝ deputati ad c̄ta tempus  
dies & loca sibi assignand infra  
libtatem eiusdem ville non venit<sup>9</sup>.  
tunc bñ liceat dēis maꝝris de  
illo sic suꝝmot<sup>9</sup> & non venient<sup>9</sup>  
tociens quociens huic ordinatiō  
contuēnit vnam libram cere  
recipe & leuar p suo contemptu  
vnde medietatem ad tortas p̄dēas  
dūponend & aliam meditatem  
ad opus ville maiori qui p tempe  
fuit libabunt &c

anyone of the aforesaid craft  
staying in the aforesaid town  
of Northampton shall not come  
at the summons of the aforesaid  
masters or any one of them or  
any other deputy of theirs at  
the certain times days and places  
assigned to him within the lib-  
erty of the same town then it  
may be lawful to the said  
masters concerning the man so  
summoned and not coming as  
often as he shall contravene  
this ordinance to receive and  
levy for his contempt one pound  
of wax of which they shall dis-  
pose one moiety to the torches  
aforesaid and the other moiety  
they shall deliver for the work  
of the town to the mayor for  
the time being &c

ORDINACIO FACT̄ PRO PORCIS  
TEMPE RIC̄I WEMMES MAIORIS  
ANNO RR HENRICI QUINTI  
IX<sup>o</sup> & X<sup>o</sup>

CAPITULO LXIII<sup>o</sup>

Die ven<sup>is</sup> px post festum S̄cī  
Gregorij Anno regni Regis Ric̄i  
secundi post conquestum quarto  
tempe Simonis Daventre tunc  
maioris Congregatōne habita ad  
Eccliam S̄cī Egidij iōm tunc  
ordinatum fuit ex cōi assensu &  
pelamat<sup>9</sup> qd nullus dimitteret  
porcos suos in vijs infra

ORDINANCE MADE FOR PIGS IN  
THE TIME OF RICHD WEMMES<sup>218</sup>  
MAYOR IN THE 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> YEARS  
OF THE REIGN OF HENRY V

CHAPTER LXIII

The Friday next after the  
feast of Saint Gregory [Friday,  
15th March, 1381] in the fourth  
year of the reign of Richard  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> since the conquest in the  
time of Simon Daventre<sup>219</sup> then  
mayor At a congregation held  
at the same church of Saint Giles  
the following ordinance was  
made by general consent and  
proclamation that no one send  
his pigs into the streets within

the fyne for  
hoggs going at  
large in the  
strete and waye  
of the towne

<sup>218</sup> Richard Wemmes, or Wemys, was mayor of the town in 1421-2. Richard Wemmes was member for the town at the parliament held 12th Henry IV.

<sup>219</sup> Simon Daventre in 1380-1, 1386-7, and 1390-1.

villam extra custodiam ire sub pena quadraginta denarū soluent  
ville et vnius denarū soluent  
Ballius p̄ quolibet porco &c

the town out of his custody under a penalty of 40<sup>d</sup> to be paid to the town and 1<sup>d</sup> to be paid to the Bailiffs for every pig &c

[Folio 31b.]

**ORDINACIō FACT̄ P̄ CANIBUS  
CAP<sup>o</sup> LXV<sup>o</sup> &c**

for curiyd  
dogge vntyd  
xi d.

Item qd nullus sub pena quadraginta denarū soluent villate dimitteret canem suum Aliquem nisi gentilem & malum non facientem in villa Circumvagare ymmo tenere hui<sup>s</sup> canem in ligamine nisi quando Aliquis Deuillauerit & canem secum here voluerit

**ORDINANCE MADE FOR DOGS  
CHAPTER LXV &c**

Item that no one under a penalty of 40<sup>d</sup> to be paid to the township shall let any dog of his unless gentle and not mischievous roam about the town but rather to hold his dog in a leash except when any may have gone out of the town and wished to have his dog with him

**ORDINAÇO FACT̄ P ELECT  
BURGENS PLIAMENT  
CAPITULO LXVJ<sup>o</sup> &c**

[A]d congregacōnēm h̄tam in ecclia p̄dēa die Martis in septimanā Pasche eodem Anno tempore dēi Laurencij Haddon maioris Simon Daventre & Ricū Rawlyns fuerunt electi Burgenſ p̄ parlamento tenend apud Westm̄ in Crastino sc̄i Joh̄is Ante portam latinam tunc px futuſ Et insuper tunc ordinatum fuit qd quilibet Norht Maioratus officium pprius h̄ens sit impostum electus in Burgenſ

**ORDINANCE MADE FOR THE  
ELECTION OF BURGESSES OF  
PARLIAMENT  
CHAPTER LXVI &c**

At a congregation held in the church aforesaid on Tuesday in Easter week in the same year [Tuesday, 16th April, 1381] in the time of the said Laurence Haddon<sup>220</sup> Mayor Simon Daventre and Richard Rawlyns were elected Burgesses for the Parliament to be held at Westminster on the morrow of St John before the Latin gate [Tuesday, 7th May, 1381] then next ensuing and furthermore it was then ordained that everyone last holding the office of mayor of Northampton should be hereafter elected Bur-

<sup>220</sup> Lawrence Haddon was mayor of the town in 1381-2. Laurence de Haddon was member for the town at the parliament held 43rd Edward III.

plamenti si illud officium burgenſ non pante geslerit non obſtante officio Maioratus pdēi &c

of Parliament if he shall not have discharged the office of Burgess before the office of the mayoralty aforesaid being no hindrance &c

**ORDINACō FACT̄ P̄ HOSTILLAR̄  
CAP° LXVII**

[A]d congregatōem habitam in ecclia sēj Egidij die dñca px post feitum sēi Michis Archī Anno regni pdēi Regis Ricē septimo tempe Thome Sutton tunc maioris ordinatum fuit quod nullus hostillař ville Northampton faceret panem equim nec Allium panem ad vendend in hosteleria sua sub pena viginti solidoz soluend villat⁹ tociens quo ciens huic contrauenerit ordinaciōni &c

**ORDINANCE MADE FOR  
INNKEEPERS  
CHAPTER LXVII**

At a congregation holden in the church of S<sup>t</sup> Giles on Sunday next after the feast of S Michael the Archangel [Sunday, 4th October, 1383] in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the aforesaid King Richard in the time of Thomas Sutton <sup>An Jne baking hofbred xxv.</sup> then Mayor it was ordained that no innkeeper of the town of Northampton should make horse-bread or any other bread to sell in his inn under a penalty of 20<sup>d</sup> to be paid to the Steward as often as he shall contravene this ordinance &c

**ORDINACō FACT̄ P̄ SUIENT̄  
BALLIOZ  
CAP° LXVIII**

[A]d congregatōem hitam in ecclia Egidij die Ven⁹is px ante feitum Phi & Jacobi Anno regni pdci Regis Ricardi quartodecimo p Assensum xxiiij<sup>a</sup> Burgenſtūm tocius coitatis ville Northampton coram Simone Daventre tunc maiore eiusdem ville ſumonitoz

**ORDINANCE MADE FOR  
SERJEANTS OF THE BAILIFFS  
CHAPTER LXVIII**

At a congregation holden in the church of S<sup>t</sup> Giles on Friday next before the feast of Philip and James [Friday, 28th April, 1391] in the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of the aforesaid King Richard by the assent of the 24 burgesses of the whole commonalty of the town of Northampton before Simon Daventre<sup>xxv</sup> then Mayor of the same town summoned and

<sup>xx</sup> Thomas Sutton was mayor of the town in 1383-4; and member at the parliament held 42nd Edward III.

<sup>xxi</sup> Simon Daventre in 1380-1, 1386-7, 1390-1.

that the  
sjauntes shall  
nott beg payne  
xxs

& congregatoꝝ ordinatū tuit qd  
ſuientes videſit Clauig'i Ballioꝝ  
Norhampton deceſto in villa Nor-  
hampton nec extra vt ſoluet ad  
certa tempa Anni non mendica-  
bunt ſub pena viginti ſolidoꝝ  
leuand ad opus ville de quocumqꝫ  
illoꝝ hoc faciente tociens quociens  
&c

assembled it was ordained that  
the ſerjeants viz the macebearers  
of the bailiffs of Northampton  
henceforth [either] in the town  
or without as they are accu-  
tomed to do at certain times of  
the year ſhall not beg under a  
penalty of 20<sup>o</sup> to be levied for  
the work of the town from  
each one of them ſo doing as  
often as &c

ORDINACō FACT̄ P̄ VADIJS  
DELIBAN  
CAPITULO LXIX &C

(Folio 33b.)

distresses  
taken by the  
chaberlaynes  
be ſold after  
a quarter of a yer

[E]t inſup ibm tunc fuit ordinatū  
& conſeffum qd omnes hoies &  
mulieres Norht hentes vel habi-  
turi vadia et diſtrictiones in  
Cultodia quoꝝcumqꝫ Camerarioꝝ  
cōitatis ville p̄dēe pro quacumqꝫ.  
cauſa ibm iacencia qd acquietent  
to & ſatiſſaciant pro dictis vadijs  
et diſtrictionibꝫ infra quartum  
Anni poſt captōem eoꝝdem ſub  
pena foriſſactur eoꝝ vadioꝝ &  
& diſtrictionū villate Et ſi illa vadia  
aut diſtrictiones non ſufficient p̄  
Am̄ciamentis p̄ quibꝫ leuant  
capiant plura & meliora &c

ORDINANCE MADE  
FOR REDEEMING PLEDGES  
CHAPTER LXIX &C

And furthermore at the ſame  
place it was then ordained and  
conceded that all men and women  
of Northampton having or going  
to have pledges and diſtresses in  
the custody of any chamberlains  
of the commonalty of the town  
aforesaid for any cauſe whatſo-  
ever lying in the ſame place  
that they acquit and ſatisfy for  
the ſaid pledges and diſtresses  
within a quarter of a year after  
the taking of the ſame under  
a penalty of forfeiting their  
pledges and diſtresses to the  
townſhip And if those pledges  
and diſtresses be not ſufficient  
for the amercements for which  
they are levied more and better  
ones may be taken &c

STATUTA ET ORDINACONES  
DE NOVO P VASTO LOC  
SICUE PLAC  
CAP<sup>o</sup> LXX &C

Quia certe vate placere soli  
infra villam pdcam finijs & Alijs  
sordidis diuimode occupant de  
quibz Balliui dni Regis seu  
Camerarij itm aliqua redditus  
seu proficia p tempa pfta nullo  
modo pceperunt nec pcipiunt in  
presenti Jdeo in vltimo generali  
colloquio in dce ville melior-  
atdem vnamimo assensu ordinatum  
exiit piter & prouisum Quod  
Maior & Camerarij ville pdce qui  
p tempa sunt decetero hant  
plenam potestatem loco & noie  
tocius coitatis pnoiate dimittendi  
ad firmam omnes & singulas  
Vastoco<sup>22</sup> placeas soli infra villam  
pdictam existentes sub Sigillo eo<sup>z</sup>  
Communi p certis redditibz eis  
et eo<sup>z</sup> successoribz ad vium ville  
pdce Annuatim reddend & in the-  
sauro Camerie itm fidelit psol-  
uend Saluo semp ballius dm  
Regis itm [qui] p tempa fuerint  
de qualibet valla placea soli dm  
Regis itm uno Annuali redditu  
racionabilit secundum porcionem  
eiudem &c

STATUTES AND ORDINANCES  
MADE ANEW FOR WASTE SPOTS  
OR PLACES  
CHAPTER LXX &C

Whereas certain waste places  
of ground within the town a-  
foresaid are occupied by thieves  
and other filthy persons here  
and there from whom the bailiffs  
of the lord king or chamberlains  
in the same place have in no  
manner received any returns or  
profits for times past nor are  
receiving at present Therefore  
in the last general conference  
for the improvement of the said  
town by unanimous assent it  
is ordained and provided that  
the Mayor and Chamberlains  
of the town aforesaid for the  
time being henceforth may have  
full power in the place and  
name of the whole commonalty  
beforenamed of letting out to  
farm all and singular waste  
places of ground within the  
town aforesaid existing under  
their common seal for certain  
rents to be rendered annually  
to them and their successors for  
the town aforesaid and in the  
treasury of the chamber there  
faithfully to be paid saving al-  
ways to the bailiffs of the lord  
king there for the time being  
concerning any waste place of  
ground there one annual rent  
reasonably according to the size  
of the same &c

voyd groundes  
vier much lls  
be other to be  
lette by the  
mayor &  
chamberlaynes

[Folio 53a.]

<sup>22</sup> This word should be *vastas*.

ALIA ORDINACō P LE BOWBELL  
CAP<sup>o</sup> LXXI<sup>o</sup>

[E]T pro eo qd in Ciuitate  
Londoñ int<sup>o</sup> alias con-  
suetudines vna valde comedibilis  
ibm in speciali heat' qd ad horam  
nouenam cuiuslibt noctis serialis  
& festivitis anni quedam campana  
in arcub; Londoñ vocal<sup>t</sup> Bowbell  
p spaciū vnius miliaris solemptn<sup>t</sup>  
pulsatur p quod omnes & singuli  
ad Ciuitatem pdēam laborantes  
& in Campis ibm noctant ob-  
scurari eidm Ciuitati p hospicio  
suo hendo citius poterint confluere  
Et qd nullus campana pdēa  
pulsata in Ciuitate p'dea abisq;  
lumine & causa rationabili cir-  
cumvagat sub pena imprisonmenti  
& graue redēptionis  
Ciuitati pdēe faciend Et ad  
consimilem consuetudinem im-  
pot<sup>o</sup>um infra Villam Norhampton<sup>n</sup>  
effectualit hend & vtend. Pro-  
viūm etiam & in gen<sup>o</sup>ali colloquio  
pdēo existit ordinatum qd in qual-  
ibet nocte seriali & festivali ad  
horam nouenam eiusdem noctis.  
magna solemptnior campana Ec-  
clie Om̄ Scoz ibm p eiusdem  
ecclie Sacristam spacio vnius  
miliaris durante decefo

(Folio 33b.)

ANOTHER ORDINANCE FOR  
THE BOWBELL  
CHAPTER LXXI

And forasmuch as in the city  
of London among other customs  
one greatly to be commended is  
specially kept that at the ninth  
hour of every night common  
day and holiday of the year a  
certain bell in the arches<sup>234</sup> of  
London called Bowbell for the  
space of one hour is solemnly  
rung whereby all and singular  
working at the city aforesaid  
and benighted in the fields may  
be able to betake themselves  
to the same city more quickly  
for getting shelter And that no  
one after the bell aforesaid has  
been rung in the city aforesaid  
without a light and a reason-  
able excuse shall roam about  
under the penalty of imprison-  
ment and paying a heavy fine  
to the city aforesaid And for  
the effectual establishment and  
use of a like custom henceforth  
within the town of Northampton  
It was also provided and in  
the general conference aforesaid  
ordained that in every night  
and festival at the ninth hour  
of the same night the great  
and more solemn bell of the  
church of All Saints there by  
the sexton of the same church  
for the space of one hour

<sup>234</sup> This is the church of St. Mary le Bow, Cheapside, London; its Latin dedi-  
cation was S. Maria de Arcibus.

solempnit<sup>9</sup> pullet' vt per sonū eiudem quicumq; in campis ibm obscuritate noctis existentes ville p̄dēe citius pot<sup>9</sup>int adherere Et qd nullus cuiuscumq; fuerit conditōis infra villam p̄dcam pulfacione dēe magne campane finita nisi secum lumen portauit & rationabilem pro se huerit in hac pte causā latitans inueniat Nec vagans sub pena prisonamenti & graue redemptionis scdm maioris ibm discretionem qui pro tempe fuerit ad vium ville p̄dēe faciend tociens quo ciens in p̄misq; Aliquo fuerit conuictus

lasting shall be solemnly rung that by the sound of the same whosoever are in the fields there in darkness of night may more quickly be able to reach the town aforesaid And that no one of whatsoever condition he may be within the town aforesaid after the ringing of the said great bell is finished unless he shall carry a light with him and shall have in this respect a reasonable excuse for himself may be found lurking or wandering under the penalty of imprisonment and paying a heavy fine according to the discretion of the mayor for the time being for the use of the town aforesaid as often as he shall have been convicted in any one of the premises

that no man go  
wthout a lyght  
in thestre aftr  
ix of the clok  
bell

ORDINACō P̄ CōI IN CAMPIS  
IBM HEND

CAPITULO LXXII &c

ET PRO tanto qd omnes paſcua & pasture cōitati ville Norhampton p̄tinencia per Carnifício & alioz ville eiudem animalia qm̄ plura existunt deſtructa & in dies conſumpta ad Cōitatis prenominate dampnū non modicū piter & grauamen Ordinatum tunc exiſtit & vlt̄ius prouifum qd quilibet liber homo ville Norht duo animalia bruta in Cūib;

ORDINANCE FOR HAVING  
COMMON IN THE FIELDS THERE  
CHAPTER LXXII &c

And forasmuch as all the meadows and pastures belonging to the commonalty of the town of Northampton by the many beasts of the butchers and others of the same town are destroyed and consumed from day to day to the no small loss and grievance of the commonalty before named It was then ordained and further provided that every free man of the town of Northampton may have two brute beasts in the common

[Folio 34a.]

no ma kepe  
mo beltes than  
too vpon the  
common

pascuis & pasturis p<sup>o</sup>noiate libere  
& quiete annuatim pasturata tantū  
& non plura beat dece<sup>o</sup> tempe  
commū nisi finem dēe ville Came-  
rarijs p<sup>o</sup> tempe existentib<sup>y</sup> p<sup>o</sup>  
quolibet aialium p<sup>o</sup>dco<sup>z</sup> capite  
duob<sup>y</sup> aialib<sup>y</sup> suis p<sup>o</sup>nōiatis semp  
except<sup>o</sup> annuatim fecerit & eis  
fidelit<sup>o</sup> soluerit put in ea pte  
pot<sup>o</sup>nt concordare sub xx<sup>a</sup> pena  
ad vsum diēe ville p<sup>o</sup>soluend<sup>e</sup>  
tociens quociens de contrario  
ordinationis p<sup>o</sup>lentis in Aliquo  
fuerit conuictus

meadows and pastures before-  
named grazing freely and quietly  
only and no more hereafter in  
common time unless he pay a  
fine to the chamberlains of the  
said town for the time being for  
every head of beasts aforesaid  
(his two beasts before named  
always excepted) every year and  
faithfully pay to them according  
as they shall be able to agree  
in that respect under a penalty  
of paying 20<sup>s</sup> for the use of  
the said town as often as he  
shall have been convicted in  
anything contrary to the present  
ordinance

ALIA ORDINAÇO PRO  
VENDITORIBUS EXTRANEIS  
CAPITULO LXXIIJ<sup>o</sup> &c

Item quia diuersi Mercer Hab-  
ardaishatores Cultellarij & alia<sup>z</sup>  
rez venalium hardware nuncu-  
pato<sup>z</sup> venditores extranei diuisi  
vicos & locis ville p<sup>o</sup>dēe cum mer-  
chandijis suis dieb<sup>y</sup> m<sup>o</sup>catus in  
eadem villa vistatis. Et p<sup>o</sup>cipue  
int<sup>o</sup> fontem in regno coco<sup>z</sup> & occi-  
dentalem corneram Cimit<sup>o</sup>ij ecclie  
omni Scōz ibm ante hec tempa stare  
consuerunt in p<sup>o</sup>vuentū nocu-  
mentū & contra consuetudines  
formam ab antiquo vstat.

strange art-  
ficers that stand  
in the mickett  
vpon payne of  
xx s.

ANOTHER ORDINANCE FOR  
STRANGE TRADERS  
CHAPTER LXXIII &c

Also since divers strange  
mercers haberdashers butchers  
and sellers of other goods for  
sale called hardware in divers  
streets and places of the town  
aforesaid have been accustomed  
heretofore to stand with their  
merchandise on the usual market  
days in the same town and  
especially between the fountain  
in the Cooks' Quarter <sup>226</sup> and the  
west corner of the church-  
yard of All Saints in the  
same place to the injury of the  
passers by and against the cus-  
toms [and] form anciently used

<sup>226</sup> Probably Mercers' row: the Cooks' Arms stood by the conduit or fountain,  
where Waterloo House now stands.

Predī maior comburgenses & Cō-  
itas sup p'missis volentes remedā  
prouidere Et dict⁹ consuetudinem  
antiquam in suam formam & vim  
totalit⁹ reformare . Ordinarunt &  
instituerunt vnamint⁹ p' futu⁹ quod  
p'dēi venditores extranei cuius-  
cumq; artis fuerint omnibus  
dieb; in quib; m'catū in Nor-  
hampton hēt' in regno mercenariōz  
ibm iuxta le; ffishstalles cum suis  
m'candijis quibuscumq; sēdm con-  
fuetudinem ab antiquo vt p'fertur  
habit⁹ decetero stent in foro ibm  
& non alibi sub pena xx⁹ de eoꝝ  
quolibet ad vsum ville p'dēe  
leuande tociens quociens in  
p'missis inueniat vel aliquis eoꝝ  
inueniat delinquentes se delin-  
quens contra formam p'libatam

The aforesaid mayor fellow-  
burgesses and commonalty wish-  
ing to provide a remedy for the  
premises and wholly to restore  
the said ancient custom to its  
own form and force have or-  
dained and appointed unani-  
mously for the future that the  
aforesaid strange traders of what-  
soever craft they may be on all  
days on which a market is held  
in Northampton in the Hirelings'  
Quarter there near the fish stalls  
with all their merchandise what-  
soever according to the custom  
anciently held as is reported  
shall stand in the market place  
there and not elsewhere under  
a penalty of 20⁹ to be levied  
from every one of them for the  
use of the town aforesaid as  
often as he be found in the  
premises or any one of them  
transgressing against the form  
before delivered

[Folio 34b.]

ALIA ORDINACO PRO COMMUN  
PIXIDE

CAPITULO LXXIIIJ⁹ &c

Item p oīn p'dēe ville Aſſen-  
sum cōem prouisum existit &  
Stabilitum qd vna pixidis cōis  
ferrura duar; clauū sufficient⁹  
confecta pro finib; & alijs proficuis  
virtute officij maioratus ibm  
Annuatim annuatim

ANOTHER ORDINANCE FOR THE  
COMMON CHEST

CHAPTER LXXIIIII &c

Item by the common assent  
of all of the aforesaid town it is  
provided and established that  
one common chest stoutly  
wrought of iron with two keys  
shall be henceforth procured  
for the fines and other re-  
ceipts by virtue of the office  
of the mayoralty there annually  
hereafter accruing in the same

impostorum prouenientib; in ea-  
dem pixide imponendis & custo-  
diend in villa p;dca decet'o heat'.  
Que quidem pixidis p;notata in  
custodia maioris & claves eiusdem  
in custodia Camerarioz dce ville  
p tempe existent' annuatim Re-  
manebunt toto tempe suo; officioz  
occupationis toto tempe suo; Of-  
ficioz occupacione durante Et qd  
camerarij p;dicti de finib; & pro-  
ficuis p;dictis in dca pixide content'  
Maiore ville p;dete p tempe ex-  
istent' viginti marcas p feodo suo  
cum oñib; & singulis expenç forin-  
seç p villa p;dca p iñm fact' &  
faciend ad festa Pasche & S;ci  
Petri Aduincia equis porcionibus  
annuatim soluent indilate. Et qd  
nullus dce ville Maior p tempe  
existens aliquid de finib; & pro-  
ficuis p;dictis ad vsum suu; p;prium  
contra formam p;missam imposs'um  
Aliqualit recipiat. Nec con-  
celamentu inde modo quocumqz  
faciat neqz pixidem p;dcam in sua  
custodia . vrtra vnum diem post  
compoti Anni sui plena confect'  
feodo suo expenç p;datis sibi tunc  
integre p;solutis Aliquo modo re-  
tineat . Sed eandem pixidem  
eisdem Camerarijs oio tunc lib-  
erari faciat sub pena sui feodi  
p;scripti finalis pdicionis

[Folio 35a.]

that the  
mayor shall  
have xxii mikes  
out of the box  
and medie wt  
no fyres

chest to be put and kept in  
the town aforesaid Which chest  
indeed beforenamed shall remain  
for the year in the custody  
of the mayor and the keys  
of the same in the custody of  
the chamberlains of the said town  
for the time being during the  
whole time of the tenure of  
their offices And that the cham-  
berlains aforesaid from the fines  
and receipts aforesaid contained  
in the said chest to the mayor  
of the town aforesaid for the  
time being shall without delay  
pay 20 marks for his fee with  
all and singular outside expenses  
for the town aforesaid incurred  
and to be incurred by him at  
the festivals of Easter and S.  
Peter ad Vincula in equal por-  
tions every year And that no  
mayor of the said town for the  
time being shall hereafter in  
any way receive anything from  
the fines and receipts aforesaid  
for his own proper use contrary  
to the form set forth Nor may  
he make concealment of it in  
any way whatever nor may he  
in any way retain the chest  
aforesaid in his custody after the  
the account of his year has  
been fully finished his fee [and]  
expenses aforesaid having been  
paid in full But the same  
chest to the same chamberlains  
must then surely cause to be  
delivered under the penalty of the  
final loss of his fee prescribed

Et qd cōis Clauiger maiori p<sup>2</sup>dēo annuatim assignatus ad finem cuiuslibet mensis Anni omnes & singulas denā suās p ipm de finib; p<sup>2</sup>dictis modo tempe leuat<sup>2</sup> leuand recept<sup>2</sup> & Recipiend Cam<sup>2</sup>arijs p<sup>2</sup>dictis sub pena officij sui pditionis & ab eodem expulsionis p̄soluet & cum dilatatione post p̄ita liberauit . Acetiam qd idem cōis clauiger & Camerarij p<sup>2</sup>dicti Annuatim infra Vnū Mensēm px p̄it sestum sači Michis coram auditorib; p cōitatem ville p<sup>2</sup>dēe electis seu eligend fidelit<sup>2</sup> computabut & omnia Arreragia compotoz suoꝝ p<sup>2</sup>dictoz quoꝝcumq; immediate plene tunc p̄soluent . omni excusatione impedimento seu ditone in hac pte postponend<sup>e</sup> & totalit<sup>2</sup> omittend<sup>e</sup> . Que quidem arreragia p<sup>2</sup>dēa Ac omne supplagiū monete in Cōi pixide tunc inuent<sup>2</sup> annuatim infra duos dies pot compotos p<sup>2</sup>dētos finitas px sequent<sup>2</sup> custodib; cōis Cista ville p<sup>2</sup>dēe ad ea ineadem Cista ad vium eiusdem ville fidelit<sup>2</sup> conseruande p auditores p<sup>2</sup>dēos oio delibant<sup>r</sup> in effectu

And that the common mace-bearer annually assigned to the said mayor at the end of each month of the year shall pay and without delay deliver all and singular the sums of pence by himself from the fines aforesaid at any time levied to be levied received and to be received to the chamberlains aforesaid under the penalty of the loss of his office and expulsion from the same And also that the same common mace-bearer and chamberlains aforesaid every year within one month next after the feast of S. Michael faithfully make out their account before the auditors elected or to be elected by the commonalty of the town aforesaid and shall then immediately in full pay all arrears of their accounts whatsoever all excuse hindrance or delay in this respect being wholly laid aside and omitted Which arrears aforesaid and every surplus of money then found in the common chest every year within two days after the completion of the accounts aforesaid next following to the keepers of the common chest of the town aforesaid must be altogether in fact delivered for them to be faithfully kept in the same chest for the use of the same town by the auditors aforesaid

[Folio 35b.]

ORDINACO PRO Cōl RIPARIO  
IBM

CAPITULO LXXV<sup>o</sup> &c

[P]UR ceo q̄ le cōe ewe Appelle Nene app'tenaut a la ffranchise de Northamptoñ est graundement amentie de pessons p pleiuours pcheours & autres malfaisours p diuerses reyes & autres engynes ment resonablez en destruccion des pessons & agrant damage de la ville Ordeynez . est & pur toutz iours establez p laisent de xxiiij Burgeses & toute la Cōialte de la ville de Northamptoñ sonnonez & assemblez deuant Si-mond Spicer adonq̄s Maire de meisme la ville en la Glise de Seint Gile lundy preschoin apers le fest de seint Michell lan du regne nře fr̄ le Roy Henry quart puis le conquest neostime pur le cōe pro-fite de la dite ville North q̄ annuelment lez Chaumbleyns de meisme la ville quy ferrent pur le temps deformes aueront la gouernaunce de touz lez ewes appur-tenantz a la dite ville paientz a lez Bailliſz . de meisme la ville quy ferront p le temps . xxiiij<sup>o</sup> enaide de lour ferme . Et q̄ lez ditz Chaumbirleys leſſeront lez dits ewes chescun an a ferme al oops de la ville Et auxint q̄ null fermour de lez ditz ewes decyenauant auera ne

[Folio 36a.]

ORDINANCE FOR THE COMMON  
RIVER BANKS OF THE  
SAME [TOWN]  
CHAPTER LXXV &c

Forasmuch as the common water called Nene belonging to the franchise of Northampton is greatly denuded of fish by many fishers and other evil doers by diverse nets and other engines much used in destruction of the fish and to the great damage of the town It is ordained and for ever established by the permission of the twenty four burgesses and all the commonalty of the town of Northampton summoned and assembled before Simon Spicer<sup>22</sup> then mayor of the same town in the church of Saint Giles the Monday next after the feast of Saint Michael [Monday, 3rd October, 1407] the ninth year of the reign of our lord King Henry the fourth since the conquest for the common profit of the said town of Northampton that annually the chamberlains of the same town who shall for the time hereafter have the government of all the waters which appertain to the said town pay to the bailiffs of the same town for the time being 24<sup>o</sup> in aid of their farm And that the said chamberlains let each of the said waters to farm at the will of the town And also that no farmer of the said waters from henceforth have

<sup>22</sup> Simon Spicer was mayor of the town in 1407-8.

viera null maners de Reyses appellez dreyses tramayles le buches eiantz meindre masil en lez bracez ne en lez piés de mesmes lez reis forsqs trelx q̄ homē purra legerment getter vne Grote de argent p̄ mye la masil . et ceo pur saluation des mesmiz peſſons accreftre pur estor en lez ditz ewes . forſprises Gogeouns menus & anguilles Et q̄ lez ditz fermours ne prondrent aſcuns peſſons en lez ditz ewes a vendre ne a doner ſimoun q̄ chelcoun peſſonij ſoit de longure de . v . pouces au meins ſur peyne de payer ala ville . viij<sup>o</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> . & de forſſaite ſoun terme & lez reys ſuſditz a cheſcum feitq̄ qils ſerront trenez . en le defaute Et outre ceo q̄ nulles molyners . eiantz moleyns en ferme dedains la fraunchife de mesme la ville aueront ne vſeront aſcuns reyes nautes engynes forſiq̄ en la maner auantdit ſurmetime la peyne Et q̄ null ferme de lez ewes ſuſditz quy ſerront pur le temps leſſera a nully autre aſonne p̄tir dey ewes auantdites ſi ille ne ſoit q̄ luy plerra dordeynre . a luy vncampaignoñ al comencement de ſoun terme . Et auxint q̄ null homē de Norhamptoñ naute q̄ conq̄ deſore enauant ne peſche en lez ditz ewes oue null maner de Reys Angles nautes engynes ſur la peyne & forſſaiture auantditz Sauuant touz

or use any kind of net called drag trammels or blocks having a smaller mesh in the arms or feet of the same net as aforesaid save such as a man could easily draw a groat of silver through the mesh and this for the safety of the same fish and to increase the stock in the said waters save gudgeons minnows and eels And that the said farmers do not take any fish out of the said waters to sell nor to give unless each fish be of the length of five inches at the least under the penalty of paying to the town six shillings and eight pence and to forfeit their term and the nets aforesaid each time they are taken in the default And also that no millers having mills to farm within the franchise of the same town have or use any nets or other engines save in the manner aforesaid under the same penalty And that no farmer of the waters aforesaid who shall be for the time being ſhall let to any other his part of the waters aforesaid unless it shall be that it please him to take a partner from the comencement of his term And also that no man of Northampton nor any other whosoever henceforward ſhall fish in the said waters with any kind of nets angles or other engines under the pain and forfeiture aforesaid Saving always

[Folio 96b.]

feit; q̄ bien lirra auchescun  
homē de la ville enfranchise a  
pescher en lez ewes de la dēe ville  
appellez Olde ees . ouesq; les  
Shouenettes chescun Mesoardy  
Vendredy Samady & autres io's  
de Juner & null autres io's fil ne  
soit p cause de maladie sur peyne  
de greuous Amerciment.

that it shall be well allowed to  
each man of the town enfran-  
chised to fish in the waters of the  
said town called Old [? water]  
also the "Shouenettes" each Wed-  
nesday Friday Saturday and other  
fasting days and no other days  
if it be not because of sickness  
under pain of grievous fine

[Folio 37a.]

ORDINACō FACT̄ TEMPE  
SIMONIS DAVENTRE MAIORIS  
ANNO RR̄ RIČI SCDI X<sup>o</sup>  
CAPITULO LXXVJ<sup>o</sup>

[A] Dhustengū tentum die lune  
px ante dīc in Ramis  
Palmaꝝ Anno regni Regis Riči  
Scdi decimo p Maiori Coronatoꝝ  
& xxiiij<sup>o</sup> comburgenſ in Gildam  
Aulam plenaꝝ cōuocat<sup>o</sup> ordinat<sup>o</sup>  
fuit & post modum publice in diuſis  
locis ville Norht pelamatū qd  
omnes hoies & mulier ville Norht  
hentes vadia aut districtones in  
custodia quoꝝcomq; baliꝝ ville  
p̄dictē que fuerunt ante dict<sup>o</sup>  
diem p executionibꝝ vel Amercia-  
mentis vel pro Aliqua causa tan-  
gente balliam suam iacensia qd  
acquitarent & satisfacerent p dēis  
vadijs & districtionibꝝ citra . xl<sup>m</sup>  
diem extunc px sequent sub pena  
pditiois

distresses  
taken by the  
baylys to be  
forlayted by a  
day if they be  
not redeemed

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME  
OF SIMON DAVENTRE <sup>227</sup> MAYOR  
IN THE TENTH YEAR OF THE  
REIGN OF RICHARD THE  
SECOND  
CHAPTER LXXVI

At a Court of Hustings held  
on Monday next before Palm  
Sunday [Monday, 25th March,  
1387] in the tenth year of the  
reign of King Richard the Second  
by the Mayor Coroner and 24  
burgesses regularly summoned to  
the Guild Hall it was ordained  
and presently publicly proclaimed  
in divers places of the town of  
Northampton that all men and  
women of the town of Northamp-  
ton having pledges and distresses  
in the custody of any of the bailiffs  
of the town aforesaid which have  
been lying before the said day for  
executions or fines or for any  
cause touching his office of bailiff  
that they acquit and satisfy for  
the said pledges and distresses  
within the fortieth day then next  
following under the penalty of

<sup>227</sup> Simon Daventre was mayor of the town in 1380-1, 1386-7, and 1390-1.

dicto vad & district<sup>9</sup> imppm Et qd nullus dece<sup>9</sup> heat in Custodia Battio<sup>9</sup> quo<sup>9</sup>cumq<sup>9</sup> Nor<sup>9</sup>t futuro<sup>9</sup> vadia aut districciones vt p<sup>9</sup>dēm est iacencia vltra festum S<sup>9</sup>ci Martini in yeme p[ x ] post receiptum huiusmodi ballio<sup>9</sup> Ab officio suo sub pena p<sup>9</sup>dēa

perpetual loss of the said pledges and distresses and that no man hereafter shall have lying in the Custody of any of the future Bailiffs of Northampton pledges or distresses as is aforesaid beyond the feast of Saint Martin in the winter next after the removal of such bailiffs from their office under the penalty aforesaid

ORDINACE FACT<sup>9</sup> TEMPE  
HENRICI CAYSHO MAIORIS  
ANNO RR RICI SC<sup>9</sup>DI XIX<sup>9</sup>  
CAPITULO LXXVII<sup>9</sup>

[Folio 37b.]

[A]d congregationem h<sup>9</sup>itam Ad Ecciam S<sup>9</sup>ci Egidij Nor<sup>9</sup>t die Mercu<sup>9</sup> in Ebdomada Pasche Anno regni Regis Ri<sup>9</sup>ci Se<sup>9</sup>di post conq<sup>9</sup>m xix<sup>9</sup> p Aissenum Maioris & viginti quatuor comburgenses & tocius cōitatis ville Nor<sup>9</sup>t illuc tunc congregat ordinatus est sicut prius Anno p<sup>9</sup>cedenti videt qd si quis in Cu<sup>9</sup> Nor<sup>9</sup>t in quocumq<sup>9</sup> p<sup>9</sup>lito ad sectam Ali cui querentis defenderit se p legem & fecit legem & ip<sup>9</sup>e defendens vel Alij cum eo legem facientes post modum inquietati vel vexati fuerint in

At a congregation held at the Church of Saint Giles at Northampton on Wednesday in Easter week [Wednesday, 5th April, 1396] in the nineteenth year of the Reign of King Richard the Second after the Conquest by the assent of the Mayor and the twenty-four burgesses and the whole commonalty of the town of Northampton there and then assembled it was ordained as before in the year preceding namely that if any one in the court of Northampton in any plea at the suit of any complainant shall defend himself by law and execute the law and the defendant himself or others with him executing the law shall presently be disturbed

⇒ Henry Caysho or Cayso was mayor of the town.

the playntiffs  
to sue the  
defendant for  
perjury by way  
of lawe shall  
forfette xxv

Cuſt Xpianitate vel Alibi p piurm  
vel aliam sectam querente vel  
Altius eius noīe qd idem querens  
debet Amciari in xx<sup>a</sup> soluend ad  
vium ville Norht tociens quociens  
caſus euen<sup>t</sup> int infutur

or troubled in the Court of Christianity or elsewhere for perjury or other suit of the complainant or any other in his name that the same complainant ought to be fined in the sum of 20' to be paid to the use of the town of Northampton as often as such cases shall happen in the future

ORDINANCE MADE FOR  
STALLAGES IN THE TIME OF  
JOHN SHREWISBURY<sup>229</sup> MAYOR  
IN THE TWENTIETH YEAR OF  
THE REIGN OF KING  
RICHARD II  
CHAPTER LXXVIII

[Folio 38a.]

ORDINACO FACT P STALLAG  
TEMPE JOHIS SHREWISBURY  
MAIORIS ANNO REGNI REGIS  
RICI SCIDI VICESIMO  
CAP<sup>a</sup> LXXVIIJ<sup>a</sup>

Ad congregacōem h̄itam in  
ecclia sc̄i Egidij Norht die d̄mca  
px ante fſm Exaltačois sc̄ Crucis  
Anno i ſ ſ Ric̄i sc̄di post conq̄m  
Vicesimo p Assensum Maioris  
xxiiij<sup>a</sup> & tocius cōtatis ville Norht  
illic tunc congregat. Ordinatus  
est qd nullus lib homo Norht vide-  
tit ad libertatem eiusdem ville p  
Curiam admissus deceſo p aliquo  
ſtallo p mercandijs suis sup ven-  
dendis. Ordinato soluet battio  
Norht futur nec eoꝝ ministris stal-  
lagium Jta tamen qd non plura

that ne  
freman shall  
pay for one  
ſtall in the  
merkett ſo that  
yit bre no  
ground

At a congregation holden in the church of S Giles at Northampton on Sunday next before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross [Sunday, 10th Sept., 1396] in the twentieth year of the reign of King Richard the Second after the Conquest by the assent of the Mayor the 24 and the whole commonalty of the town of Northampton there and then assembled it was ordained that no freeman of Northampton that is to say admitted to the freedom of the said town by Court hereafter for any stall set apart for selling his merchandize shall pay to a future baillif of Northampton or to their servants stallage But so that he may not have more

<sup>229</sup> A John Shrewisbury, or Shrovesbury, was mayor of the town in 1378-9, 1385-6, 1393-4, 1396-7, 1405-6. Probably father and son. John Shruvesbury was member for the town at the parliament held 13th Edward III.

stalla non beat p<sup>r</sup> vnum stancio  
in m<sup>r</sup>cato adlocande alijs p<sup>r</sup>cupie-  
tate reddit<sup>r</sup> inde bendi sub hac  
cum ordina<sup>r</sup>one non restrigunt<sup>r</sup>  
tales qui hent plura stalla in m<sup>r</sup>cato  
ab antiquo terrefixa. De hereditate  
vel p<sup>r</sup> inquisitione vnde redditus  
solet solui regius Atempe quo non  
extat memoria sive stallagia inde  
prestando

stalls than one to be assigned  
in the market for the desire of  
getting gain from it While under  
this ordinance such men are  
not restrained as have more  
stalls in the market anciently  
fixed by inheritance or for  
inquisition whence a rent to the  
king is accustomed to be paid  
from time immemorial or stallages  
from them to be afforded

ORDINAC<sup>O</sup> FACT<sup>E</sup> TEMP<sup>E</sup> WILLI  
SHEFFORDE MAIORIS ANNO  
REGNI REGIS RICI SCDI  
VICESIMO PRIMO

CAPITULO LXXIX<sup>o</sup> &c

Et Ad congregatioem h<sup>i</sup>tam  
in Ecclesia pdict d<sup>r</sup>mca p<sup>r</sup> post ffe-  
tum Exaltaconis sc̄e Crucis Anno  
pdco p<sup>r</sup> cōcēsum cōitatis  
ville Ordinal<sup>l</sup> suit & concessum  
qd quilit nouis burgenis Admitiūs  
ad libertatem ville Norht erit &  
quietus Adie amissionis sue p<sup>r</sup>  
vnum Annū sequentem qd non  
debet poni in iural<sup>l</sup> nec inqui-  
sitionib<sup>r</sup> inter ptes eo Anno &c

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE  
TIME OF WILLIAM SHEFFORDE<sup>230</sup>  
MAYOR IN THE TWENTY FIRST  
YEAR OF THE REIGN OF  
KING RICHARD II

CHAPTER LXXIX &c

Nicholas Dalabere<sup>231</sup>

And at a congregation holden [Folio 38b.]  
in the church aforesaid on Sunday  
next after the feast of the Exalta-  
tion of the Holy Cross [Sunday,  
16th September, 1397] in the year  
aforesaid by the common consent  
of the commonalty of the town it  
was ordained and agreed that A man  
admitted he  
shall not serve  
the court that  
yere  
every new burgess admitted to  
the freedom of the town of North-  
ampton shall be undisturbed from  
the day of his admission for one  
year following that he ought not  
to be put in juries or inquisitions  
between parties in that year &c

<sup>230</sup> William Shefforde, or Shefford, was mayor of the town in 1397-8, 1398-9,  
and 1408-9.

<sup>231</sup> At the foot of folio 38a is written, in the same hand as the marginal notes,  
"Nicholas Dalabere." Probably the Town Clerk.

Pr est ex pte Maioris die lune  
in festo Sc̄i Hillarij qd nulli m̄-  
cenarij Amodo infra villam Nor̄t  
portent pactas iwas nec m̄candijsas  
de ostio ad ostium loco Ad locum  
seu domo ad domu ad m̄candijsas  
suas vendend sub pena xl⁹ Et  
eadem ordinaō p Aſenſum totius  
cōitatis Affirmaꝝ qd firma ſtet &  
ſtabit die ven⁹is ante leſtum ſc̄i  
Thome Appti Anno ſc̄i Riči ſeſdi  
vicielimo primo in ecclia ſc̄i Egidij  
Tempe Witti Shefforde Maioris

that no  
chapmen shall  
bring wares  
from house to  
house or place  
to place to ſell

It was ordered on the part of  
the Mayor on Monday in the  
feast of S. Hilary [Monday, 1st  
September, 1397] that no chap-  
men henceforth within the town  
of Northampton shall carry their  
packs or wares from inn to inn  
from place to place or from house  
to house to ſell their wares under  
a penalty of 40⁹ And the same  
ordinance by the assent of the  
whole commonalty is affirmed to  
stand firm and established on  
Friday before the feast of S.  
Thomas the Apostle [Friday,  
14th December, 1397] in the 21st  
year of the reign of King Richard  
the second in the church of Saint  
Giles in the time of William  
Shefforde Mayor

ORDINANCE MADE FOR THE  
BUTCHERS IN THE TIME OF JOHN  
FOX <sup>231</sup> MAYOR IN THE  
SIXTEENTH YEAR OF KING  
RICHARD THE SECOND  
CHAPTER LXXX <sup>232</sup>

[Folio 39a.] FFOR REGATYNG OR FORESTALLYNG OF FFISHE W̄IN THIS TOUN  
OR W̄OUT BY THE SPACE OF XXIIJ MILES &c

Ordenyd it is alio that no fisher ne non other man that fisher  
ſelleth ne bye fisher of no man that fisher bryngeth to this toun to  
ſell tyll that he that the fisher bryngeth haue holden his chepyng  
fullyk the fyſte daie that he coſynth into this toun Ne no marchund  
of the toun ne Go owt of the toun nygh nor far by xxiiij miles from  
Norh̄mpton for to byen frefhe fyſhe ne ſalt fyſhe for derilon the  
toun And if eny therof be ov̄ takyn be he am̄cayed to the toun at  
ij⁹ And if he do thryes & therof be oūtakyn forſwere he the crafte  
a yere & a daie &c

<sup>231</sup> John Fox was mayor of the town in 1384-5, 1392-3, 1399-0, and 1400-1.

<sup>232</sup> Space has been left by the scribe on five pages for this chapter, but the  
pages have been filled up by two different hands, the first page of the 16th  
century, the remainder of the 15th.

ORDINAÇO ARTIS CISOX Aº R R HENR  
SEXTI XXIIJ<sup>to</sup>

(Folio 39b.)

TO ALL TRUE CHRISTIN MEN this present Wrytyng jndented  
Aren to be holde seen Redde or herun Thomas Deraunt<sup>24</sup> Maire  
of the toun of Norhampton And xxiiij of his Comburgeis to hym  
sworn. Senden gretynge in god eulastyng. Sith in the gen'all counsell  
of the feide toun ther holden the Monday next astir the feste of  
Seint Andrewe thappostell [Monday, 7th December, 1444] in the  
xxiiij yere of the reigne of kyng Henry the Syxte Apetycion by  
byll to them put and shewed for the Comyn profet and honeste  
of the feide town in hit conteyned. Sithe the Tailours Crafte  
in the feide Toun vied. ffull many gentilmen and other people  
of oure lorde the Kyng for the shapyng of their clothyng and  
of their s<sup>t</sup>untes. And of theire lyvereys dayly comen to the same  
town. Nevertheles noo Rule ne order put ne is in the said  
Crafte betwene thartificers and mynystres of the feide Crafte. So  
that eulyche of them holdyth hym selfe as great and hable A  
maister oonas another. Wherfore the feide gentilmen and diuse  
liege people of our lord Kyngis oft tynes for vnhable shapyng  
in the meayne tyme aren hurte or made worse and disleived to  
her piudice. And also solaunder and detriment to the faide toun.  
And therfore the faide Maire and his Comburgeis by the comyn  
Assent of the feide toun. Wyllen in the faide Crafte ordynaunce  
and good Rule be putt and ordent for the Weale and honoure  
of the feid Toun. And to the laude and honoure of god  
ppetually to endure And inthat that the ordeinanaunce and good  
Rule of the feide crafte there more pfitly and faithfully may be  
vied This constyficion and ordynaunce syng stonde for lawe in  
the faide toun for euer to endure. So that by the lybtees &  
p'veleges therof by oure lorde the kyng and his pgenytores  
graunted and consermed. By the whiche they may Amonge other  
lawes Amonge or bytwene them selfe make for the good Rule of  
the same toun to be kepte. In the ffyrste they chosen and putten  
John Clayhunger and John Lylly of the faide Crafte Maisters and  
oþseers for defaltes in the same crafte correctoures for the yere  
next syng. And that they and their successoures haue an halle  
in the which thei may when they wyll call to gedyr all tho that  
vien the feid crafte. And tho called that absent them selfe to  
ponysme. And there of them selfe in like wise. ij maisters for the yere

(Folio 40a.)

<sup>24</sup> Thomas Deraunt was mayor of the town in 1444-5.

of theire owne to be sor to chose The whiche shall make othe  
 by fore the Maire of the toun for the tyme beyng in the gen<sup>all</sup> counsell faithfully to occupie and the saide maisters to haue power  
 all trespassoures and defauters of hem pleynly to correcte. Alwey  
 excepte that if it happen any contrarie Amonges hem parcially  
 for to spryne or hadde hit be put to the maire of the saide  
 toun beyng for the tyme. To amende leest they putt so great  
 ponyshment to the trespassoures or money of hem wylfully take  
 by extorcion and putte or turne the money to theire owne pur  
 vie. But suche Amendes for defautes and other sumes of money  
 levyed of men of that Crafte Rightfully taken into the honoure  
 of god and for the Welfare of the saide crafte medefully and  
 charytably as it sues Thei putte and dispose And good rule and  
 ordinaunce amonge hem holde as it sues That is to sey that no  
 Taillo<sup>r</sup> in the toun forseide nor in the subbarbys ther holde  
 shoppe. But he or that by the maisters of the seide Crafte be  
 conyng and Able in the same and in his man<sup>s</sup> for the avayle  
 to the seid Craft so conably provid. And then in the bygynnynge  
 of settynge vppe of his shoppe that he pay to the seid maisters.  
 That is to sey euy straunger iis iijd. And of euy other man  
 as in maner of A prentiz within the seide toun in the seide  
 crafte taught xxd of the whiche the maisters the halfe shall  
 delyue to the Maire and Comyn f<sup>or</sup>unt of the seide town to the  
 vie and profite of the Maire and Comynalte. And the other halfe  
 the Maisters to kepe for the comyn necessariyes & nedis of the  
 seide crafte. And the sustentacion of the fraternite of Seint John  
 Baptiste and the light abowte the Sacrament in the Chirche of  
 Alhalowes of Norhampton to be spendid And that no Taillo<sup>r</sup>  
 holde any Chaumbir in the seid Toun ne in the subbarbis  
 therof but allonly for hym selfe his wiffe and his Chyldren pur  
 clothes to be sewed And yf any Taillo<sup>r</sup> be founde in that tres  
 pasyng by A moderate mercymet by the forseide Maisters or  
 the Maire as it is seide for to be taken in the vis & necessariis  
 forseide evenly or equally to be deuyded vnto the tyme he leve  
 suche Chaumbyr and he be so chastysed And that hereastirwarde  
 Taillours of the seide craft in Norhampton than to be Brethern  
 of the seid fraternite of Seint John Baptiste by the Maisters of  
 the Craft Above seide to be receyvid and to gydys sworne for  
 to take vpon hem the ordinaunce and constiticions of the seide  
 fraternite. And to pay their quartages & to supporte and mayn-

[Folio 4ob.]

[Folio 41v.]

tene all other charges of Right to the seide ffranckite longyng In  
wittness hereof to oon partye of this þsent wryting endented  
Ayenste or with the Maisters of the seide Crafte to Abide.  
Aiswell the comyn seal of the seide toun of Norhampton . As  
the seal of thoffice of the meiryalte of the same toun Aren Appen-  
daunt or putto . And the other partie of the same wryting  
indented Ayenste the seide Meire and xxiiij comburgeis in the  
Comyn Cheste of the same town Amonge certeyne Evidence for  
eile to be kepte vnder the seal of the saide John Clayhunger  
and John Lylly rest sealed yeven at Norhampton the xx<sup>th</sup> day of  
Auguste the year of the Reign of the seide kyng Henry the  
sxtye Aftyr the conquest xxiiij<sup>th</sup> [20th August, 1445]

<sup>228</sup> TEMPE THOME HUNT MAIORIS IN THE TIME OF THOMAS HUNT<sup>229</sup> [Folio 41b.]  
 JOHIS LEYCETT<sup>o</sup> &  
 THOME POPE BALL A<sup>o</sup> RR  
 E IIIJ<sup>d</sup> XIIJ<sup>o</sup> &c  
 MAYOR JOHN LEYCETTUR  
 & THOMAS POPE BAILIFFS  
 IN THE 13TH YEAR OF THE  
 REIGN OF KING EDWARD IV &c

Itm p̄s qd Ricus Knyghtley  
 Armig occupat quandū peciam  
 prati iux le Olde yee ex pte boř  
 & prat<sup>o</sup> vocat<sup>o</sup> Dusloun mede ex  
 pte Austral et Abuttat ex oppoit<sup>o</sup>  
 gardini de Almeshowle situat<sup>o</sup> sup  
 pontem Occident<sup>o</sup> ex pte Occide  
 ibm et extendit se vsq; pratum  
 dñi de Dalyngton ex pte Orienili  
 que quidm pecia prati p̄stat<sup>o</sup> Ricus  
 Knyghtley occupat in pludm ville  
 North Jdeo in miā &c

It is also presented that  
 Richard Knyghtley Esquire oc-  
 cupies a certain piece of meadow  
 near the Old Yee on the north  
 side and a meadow called Dus-  
 toun mede on the south side and  
 it abuts opposite the garden of  
 the Almshouse situate over against  
 the West bridge there on the  
 West side and it extends right  
 up to the meadow of the lord  
 of Dalyngton on the east side  
 which piece of meadow aforesaid  
 Richard Knyghtley occupies to  
 the prejudice of the town of  
 Northampton And so in mercy  
 &c

<sup>228</sup> The original handwriting recommences here.

<sup>229</sup> Thomas Hunt was mayor of the town in 1465-6, 1473-4, and 1481-2; and one of the members of the parliament held 28th Henry VI.

TEMPE WILLI AUSTIN  
MAIORIS A<sup>o</sup> R R  
E IIIJ<sup>u</sup> XVJ<sup>o</sup>

Itm p̄s qd Joñes Abbas monest̄ij  
Sei Jacobi iuxta Norht et eiusde  
loci conuentus occupant quandm  
peciam prati iux le Olde yee ex  
pte borial et pratum vocal Dus-  
ton mede ex pte Austral Et Abuttat  
ex op̄to Gardini de Almeshouse  
situat sup pōtem Occide itm et  
extendit se vsq; pratum dñ de  
Dalyngton ex pte Orientli Que-  
qued pecia prati p̄scripti ptinet  
villat Norht de iure Et quam  
peciam prati p̄status Abbas et  
conuentus occupant in piudm  
ville Norht Jdeo iþi in miā &c

IN THE TIME OF  
WILLIAM AUSTIN <sup>237</sup> MAYOR  
IN THE 16TH YEAR OF THE  
REIGN OF KING EDWARD IV

It is also presented that John  
Abbot of the monastery of S<sup>t</sup>.  
James near Northampton and  
the convent of the same place  
occupy a certain piece of meadow  
near the Old Yee on the North  
side and a meadow called Duston  
mede on the South side And it  
abuts opposite the garden of the  
almshouse situated over against  
the West bridge there and it  
extends right up to the meadow  
of the lord of Dalyngton on the  
East side which piece of meadow  
before written belongs to the  
steward of Northampton of right  
And which piece of meadow the  
abovesaid Abbot and convent  
occupy to the prejudice of the  
town of Northampton And so in  
mercy &c

[Folio 42a.]

ORDINACO P ART TEXTOR TEMPE JOHIS BERNHILL <sup>238</sup> MAIORIS  
[ORDINANCE FOR THE WEAVERS' CRAFT MADE IN THE TIME OF  
JOHN BERNHILL MAYOR]

Syn that many and dyliue vnfitttyng contectes and debates  
mys rule and vngodly goðnaunce hath long tyme regned in the  
Crafte of Englilhe weuers of Norhampton bitwene the Maistirs  
and the iorneymen of the seide crafte bi cause that good goðnaunce  
& puyssion haue not be duly ordeyned puided and executed as  
good pollitike ruld wolde and requyreth in the seide crafte  
by fore this tyme Where thurgh grete and notable damage

<sup>237</sup> William Austyn, or Austin, was mayor of the town in 1459-60, 1468-9,  
and 1476-7.

<sup>238</sup> John Bernhill or Barnell in 1431-2.

harme late hath be don in dede and lyke is to contynue that god forbede. But remedye be more hastily and effectually bi good provision sette for the wele fare of the seide crafte Wherfore John Bernhill mair of the toun of Norhampton by the wyse and worthi avile and hole discretion of his counsell to hym Sworne with full compromission & agrement of all the Englishe Maisters & iorneymen of the seide Crafte of the toun of Norhampton beyng bifore hym the monenday [25th August, 1432] in the morne  
[Folio 42b.]

astir the fest of Seint Bartilmewe the Apostle in the yere of the regne of kyng henri the sixte astir the conquest the tenth in the Gylde halle of the seide toun. Willyng with all his myght power and good entente to queme and please god oure lorde most soueygne, and to avoyde and repele all man<sup>9</sup> pilles and myschiefy, yminent and like to ryse. And to reform vnite peas and good accorde in the seide craft infinitly to endur. Hath ordeyned puided and in this piente wrytyng included and specified diuise ordinaunces and articles to be obserued and kepte fynally among hem without menuysing or addicion to be made but if it be bi assent of the mair for the tyme beyng os here astir is exprested and notede

ffirit that all the Maistres and iorneymen of the seide crafte that nowe ben and shull ben eþy yere the monenday in the morowe astir pasch day astir the good and comenable custome of her Craft goo honestly with her tapers of wex. os it bath be continued of olde Auncyen tyme to the howfe of our lady seynt mary de la pr<sup>220</sup> be syde Norhampton there offertyng vp here seide tapers bifore the ymages of the Trynite and oure lady ther. And to haue astir her customizable drynkyng and commucacon to gedyr withoute eny confedracies makynge. Chesyng the same day ij Maisters of the English housholders and maistres of the same crafte. And maistres of the iorneymen for the yere bi the advise and aggrement of the mair beyng for the tyme. Byfore whom thei shulbe presented and sworne for the good goünaunce of the seide crafte. And also chesygng the same day auditours to here the accountes of the maistres for the yere howe thei haue dispended the goodes that thei haue receyued in the tyme of her maistrishipp the which maistres shull accounte duly eþy yere at the  
[Folio 43a.]

<sup>220</sup> Saint Mary de la Pre was an abbey for Cluniac nuns, situate in the meadows to the south of Northampton, and in the parish of Hardingstone. Scarcely any of the old building now remains.

daies Assigned bi the comyn assent of the seide crafte. And that euy maister of the seide crafte pay yerely to her light and torches ijd. And euy io'neyman ijd. the which shalbe rered and gedered bi the seide maistres so chosen for the yere aswell the maistres of the io'neymen the which with other goodes that casuelly fallen to the comyn vse shall be putte into aboixe that shal abyde in the warde of the ij . maistres of the maistres of the crafte bi cauie of sufficiante. And the keyes of the same box shull remayne and abide in the warde of the ij maistres of io'neymen. So that no deceite shall be had among hem . With the whiche gode; so rered and hadde to her comyn vse as well the seide light att the house of Seint Marie de la P<sup>r</sup> As the light that hath and shalbe continued bisore the Rode in the body of the chirche of all halewen in Northamptow in the great pace of the same Chirche shalbe founden duly and truly euy yere in the worship of god oure lady and all his saintes withowte gruchyng bi oysight of the Maire for the tyme if eny compleynt be made to hym in contrie of this ordinaunce.

[Folio 43b.]

Conuenticley  
etc

[Folio 44a.]

And that noon of the seide crafte of the seide toun here astir plete other for eny man<sup>9</sup> cauie in to the tyme that complaynte be made to the Maistres of the seide crafte. And thei to make there of relacion to the maire for the tyme the whiche Maire shall do his never to sette hem at rest and good accorde within xv daies next after the compleynt so to hym made. And if not due accorde be made within the seide xv daies. Thanne be hit lefull to the party that syndeth hym aggrevet to sewe at the lawe in this Courte accordyng to the libte of the same And that noman<sup>9</sup> mayntenance confederacye conuenticle ne gederyng be made amonge hem in the seide crafte the whiche may turne into disturbance of the pees affraying of the kyngis people or indecrece or hynderyng of the comyn pfeite. And if it falle that thei wolde haue eny spekyng to gider at eny tyme that thei shuldo it in noo wise withoute the wylle of the meyre for the tyme. The whiche shall haue full knowleche of her entente whethir it be lawfull or not. And also that noon of the seide crafte leue ne hyre ne by non other wyle delyuer to eny man of the cuntrie noo man<sup>9</sup> flaye that longen to the seide crafte.

Servaunts

And that no maister delyuer ne put away from hym noo saunt if that he haue werke for hym withoute A fourtenyght warnyng

be fore ne no sauant goo fro his Maister withoute warnyng a fourteynight before And if eny maister sette any suche sauant awerke that bath not gouen his maister a fourthenyght warnyng before that may be proued on hym he shall pay to the toun of Norhampton xxd. And to the lyȝte of the seide crafte xxd. And the youneyman that so warneth not his Maister xxd. to the seide toun and to the crafte

And that no straunger of eny oþir crafte shall were ne haue eny hoding of the leyȝey of the seide crafte Nor noo suche lyȝey shalbe by the maisters delyued to hym vpon the peyne that is conteyned in the statute of gevynge of lyȝes

And allfo that all tho that weren the lyȝey of the same crafte that be able werkemen shull wyrke in the same crafte byfore eny other straungers. And if ther be any straunge man set on werke by Any of the seide maistres. And he knowe any able and well ruled werkeman of her lyȝey. that hath noo werke he shall pay to the seide toun and the craft xld euenly to be departed bytwene hem os ostyn os he is atteynt of the contrarie [Folio 44v.]

And allso noon suche os werith of the seide lyȝey shall in noo wise goo owte of Norhampton to seue eny man of the cuntrie as longe os eny of the seide maistres haue eny werke for hym and tyll the seide toun of Norht be sued. And he that is outaken in the contrary shall pay to the said toun & crafte xld. euenly to be departed bitwene hem as ostyn tyme as it so be fallith

And allso what iþneyman that shalbe receyved into the lyȝey of the seide crafte of the seide crafte shall pay at his entre iiijd. to the iuitinaunce of the torches of the same crafte And more ou if that any straunge man come to Norhampton to wyrche he shalbe recyued bi sume of the maistres of the seide Crafte to wirke there a fourthenyght. And be redy paied for his werke. And if he will wyrche lenger he shall paye to the seide lyȝte ijd or ellis his maister that he wrought wyth shall paye it for hym [Folio 45a.]

And what man of the seide Crafte be noysed of eny felonye bi furnettyng and suggestion of eny man That man too noysed shall not wyrke in the same crafte in the toun of Norhampton tylle he be lawfully excused or founden gylty or noo felonyes

And that the Maistres make relacion to the maire for the tyme  
of the man ioo noyted without bannyshyng or fyne taking of the  
same man

And that noman<sup>2</sup> ordinaunces ne Articles shull here aftir be  
ordeyned ne prouyded made ne vsed in the seide Crafte othir  
than is conteyned and specified above vp the peyne of emprison-  
ment and makyng fyne and raunsum at the kynge wylle . And  
allso that all the seide yo'neymen shull bere hem and [be]haue  
hem mekely and in lowly wise Aswell in wordes os in dedes to  
her maistres that thei serven . And lefuly obeye hem at all tymes  
as it fitteth hem well to doo

And if ther be eny maister or yo'neyman of the seide Crafte  
that here Aftyr offendyth or brekyth eny articles or ordenaunce  
Above conteyned ageyn the forme and the effecte of the same  
biforn expreſſed he shall be empſoned by the mayre of the  
[Folio 45b.] toun for the tyme xl<sup>4</sup> daies . And pay to the seide toun & Crafte  
Cs. evenly to be departed bitween hem os oftyn os he is atteynte  
in this mater

defamacion

And what man of the seide craft mait<sup>2</sup> or yo'neyman disclaundur  
or diffame eny man of the seide crafte of vnlouth or falsnes  
that he shulde done or vsen in the same crafte . And he may  
not therof bryng forth his Wittnesse & proved and thereof be  
atteynte and conuycte That thanne pay he to the profyte of  
the toun of Norſt and to the seide crafte of Wewers xls. evenly  
to be departed . The whiche ordynaunce w<sup>t</sup> othir above seide is  
graunted and Affermed by John Hancock<sup>240</sup> Meyre of Northampton  
and hys counsell the monenday [18th May, 1439] next after the  
fleest of the Assencion of our lord in the yere of the Reigne of  
Kyng Henry the fyxe After the conquest xvij<sup>a</sup>

[Folio 46a.]

And allſo hit is ordeyned that in the same crafte be chosen .iiij.  
Auditoures be the advyſe & the Aggrement of the hole crafte  
and of the yo'neymen whiche Auditoures soo chosen schulle occupie  
the same office all the terme of her lyffe and yf any of hem  
deceſe thanne the same crafte holly with the yo'neymen ſhall

<sup>240</sup> John Hancock was mayor of the town in 1438-9.

choise other in her stede And the same auditourey schull neu occupie the office of the maisters of the crafte. And the sorleide Maistres of the crafte and of the io'neymen for the yere beyng schul hafe ioynly for her labour xld.

And also euy maister of the seide crafte that wylnott Appere at <sup>Sommes</sup> due summonnes shall paye to the torche lyghte iijli wex os ofte he comyth not withoute that he hafe aresonable excusacion. And the yo'neymen jii wex to the same torches os ofte os he comyth nott w'oute that he haue Aresonable excusaciō. And allso that the seide Maisters schull gederyn here mony and her dutees to the same Crafte longyng bothe the Maisters of the crafte and of io'neymen iij tymes be yere. At the feste of the Nativite of Seynt John Baptiste Mighelmesse. Cristmesse and our lady day in lenton the Annunciaciōn the whiche ordenance with oper before-seide ar graunted & Aftermyd by Richard Wemmes<sup>21</sup> Mair of Norhampton & his conseil the Monday next astir the feeste of Seint John p<sup>r</sup> baptiste [Monday, 26th June, 1441] in the yer of p<sup>r</sup> regn of kyng Herry p<sup>e</sup> vj<sup>m</sup> astir p<sup>r</sup> conquest xix<sup>m</sup>

And allso it is ordeyned in the same crafte that euy Maister [Folio 46b.] in the seide crafte at his entre into the lyȝey of the maistres of the crafte shall paye to the sustynaunce of the torches vijd. And euy io'neyan at his entre of the lyȝey of the io'neymen of the seide crafte shall paye iiijd to the sustinaunce of the seide torches. And for asmyche os the seide maisters and io'neymen hau stonde in varyaunce affore this tyme whether the seide money shulde be payed to the sustinaunce of the maisters torches or of the Journeymens torches. Nowe therfore the seide maisters and io'neymen by her comon Assent be Accorded and aggred in this Wyse for eūmore p<sup>t</sup> all the seide money shalbe putt in comon Aswell to the sustenaunce of the torches of the Maisters os to the torches of the io'neymen w'oute eny seuaunce. And that the seide maisters and io'neymen shull make her torches alwey to gydur in comon And that thei put all the seide money into her boxe cū os is it gederyd. And that they haue ordeyned a cofer to leye all the seide torches Inne The whiche cofer shall haue ij lokkys of the which the maisters shall haue oon key. And the

<sup>21</sup> Richard Wemmes or Wemys was mayor of the town in 1421-2, and 1440-1.

wardens of the io'neymen Another key . And euy maister & his  
 wyffe that ben in the lyuey at her byryng shall haue iiiij torches.  
 [Folio 47a.] And euy yo'nenman that ben in the lyuey at her byryng shall  
 haue iiiij torches . And euy jo'neyman that is not in the lyuey  
 shall haue ij torches at his byryng And euy chylde of hers at  
 his byryng ij torches . The which ordeynance w<sup>t</sup> other above  
 seide ar graunted and affirmed bi William Russhden<sup>242</sup> Mair  
 than of Northamptōn and his counsell in the Guyhald ther the  
 Monday next astir the close of Pasche [Monday, 1st April,  
 1448] the yere of Kyng Herry the Sixte astir the conquest xxvj  
 And ther put in the regestre of recorde euer for to abyde  
 for fremes [strangers] doing her deyes

ORDINACO FACT P EXTRANEIS FFNCIPLEGIS TEMPE THOME  
 SALE<sup>243</sup> MAIORIS ANNO RR H vj<sup>u</sup> xj<sup>o</sup>

[ORDINANCE CONCERNING STRANGERS OBTAINING THEIR FREEDOM ]

We pore comons beseeche you enterly with all our hertis that  
 no man fromhens forwarde be receyued in to oure ffaunches .  
 But he resyaunt within þ toun . or ellis that he be att loot and  
 scott at all tymes as we ffaunchised men bene . fflthermore as  
 touchand hem that hau be receyued into oure ffaanchise or shul-  
 be here Aftyr . That it be liefull to the baillifs or her officers  
 for to somon hem at her Jnnes or at her Shoppes sith in the  
 toun lawfully for to appere at oure courte to paſe oñ questis  
 betwene party and party . or ellis to make fyne with the Baillifs  
 astir the custome of the toun as we ffaunchised men that be  
 resyeyant done . And allio that thei be ſumēd at the fame places  
 forſeid for to appere at all tymes at oure ſembles for to bere  
 the charges of the fyftene or oþir charges nedful to the toun  
 forſeyde . As we ffaunchised men done And for her mercymenis  
 so loſte of record fyne so made or charges of the toun astir  
 the custome not paied liefull to the maire and baillifs or her  
 officers in the fame Jnnes and Shoppes or in other places  
 within the toun her goodes and Catellis so distreyne and to  
 with holde astir the custom of the toun tylle the tyme that the  
 be payed of her Am<sup>c</sup>ymentis or dutees so beyng be hynde

franchised me  
 dwelling out of  
 the town to be  
 enlyed to all  
 thinges as they  
 that dwell  
 in the town.

<sup>242</sup> William Russhden was mayor of the town in 1447-8, and 1455-6.

<sup>243</sup> Thomas Sale in 1442-3, 1423-4, 1432-3, and 1433-4.

ORDINACO FAC̄ P MAIORIBUS  
NON EXISTENT BURGENSIBZ  
PLIAMENT TEMPE  
JOHIS SPRIGY MAIORIS  
ANNO H VJ<sup>4</sup> XV<sup>o</sup>

CUM Jones Sprygj Maior  
Norhampton In Ecclesia S̄ei Egidij  
ville p̄dē die lune p̄ post festum  
S̄ei Barth̄i apti Anno r r Henrici  
sexti post conq̄m quintodecimo  
colloquim gen̄ale Xpi [Christi]  
fauente grā cum suis viginti &  
quatuor Comburgensib; & cōitate  
ville p̄dē illic iniri ordinasset  
certis & necessarijs causis p̄ vtili-  
tate ville p̄dē p̄fatum maiorem  
vrgentib;. Prouisum & ordinatum  
exitit inf̄ cēla tam ex concensu &  
assensu p̄dict Maioris & viginti  
& quatuor Comburḡ p̄deoz qm̄  
dēe Cōitatis ville Nor̄t p̄dē.  
petitione speciali ex pte Cōitatis  
p̄dē ibm preuia & desiderat.  
Videt qd̄ quilt Maior ville Nor-  
hampton qui officiū Maioratus  
ville p̄dē p̄ vnu annū integrum  
ocupadit & eundm Annū plenaſ  
compleuit.

ORDINANCE MADE FOR MAYORS  
NOT BEING BURGESSES  
IN THE TIME OF PARLIAMENT.  
JOHN SPRIGY <sup>24</sup> MAYOR IN  
THE 15TH YEAR OF HENRY VI

When John Sprygj mayor [Folio 48a.]  
of Northampton in the church of  
S̄i Giles of the town aforesaid on  
Monday next after the feast of  
S̄i Bartholomew the Apostle  
[Monday, 26th August, 1437] in  
the 15th year of the reign of  
King Henry the Sixth after the  
Conquest had ordered a general  
conference to be there entered  
upon by the gracious favour of  
Christ with his 24 fellow-bur-  
gesses and the commonalty of  
the town aforesaid certain and  
necessary reasons for the advan-  
tage of the town aforesaid the  
aforesaid mayor urging It was  
provided and ordained among  
other things thereto leading the  
way and desired as well by the  
consent and assent of the afore-  
said mayor and the 24 fellow  
burgesses aforesaid as at the  
special petition of the said com-  
monalty of the town of North-  
ampton aforesaid on the part of  
the commonalty aforesaid Viz.,  
that every mayor of the town of  
Northampton who shall have  
occupied the office of mayor of  
the town aforesaid for one whole  
year and shall have fully com-  
pleted the same year Hencefor-

No ma that  
hath ben mayor  
that be mayor  
wtin sij yeres.

<sup>24</sup> John Sprygj was mayor of the town in 1425-6, 1426-7, 1428-9, and 1436-7.

Deceto non sic in pdci maioratus officium electus neq; denuo in electione positus vsq; in finem septem Annoꝝ extunc pꝫ sequentꝫ & plenaꝫ Completoꝝ Quequidem ordinaꝫ & instiꝫ in Colloquio pdco inꝫ pſatꝫ Maiorem Comburgenſ & Cōitatem diligentꝫ tractat atq; sagaci et mutuo consilio intꝫ eosdī discussa stabilita & ratificata ibm pmanere confiſtunt. atq; in Registro Cuꝫ ville Norhampton intꝫ cēla memoranda Registrata temporibꝫ ppetuis duratuꝫ &c

ward [shall] not so [be] elected to the office of the aforesaid mayoralty nor again put in election up to the end of seven years then next following and fully completed Which ordinance and institution in the conference aforesaid between the aforesaid mayor fellow - burgesses and commonalty being diligently treated and with wise and mutual counsel between them discussed established and ratified there they agree that it shall be permanent and being registered in the register of the court of the town of Northampton among other memoranda shall endure for ever &c

[Folio 48b.]

ORDINACO FACT TEMPE  
JOHIS BALDESWELL MAIORIS  
ANNO RR H VJ<sup>u</sup> XX<sup>o</sup>  
P SECRETO CONSILIO MAIORIS

Nota  
h v<sup>9</sup>ba.

Memorandum qd die lune pꝫ Ante festum S̄e Margarete virginꝫ Anno regni Regis Henrici sexti post conqꝫ vicesimo Ad husteng tenꝫ in Guyhaldville Norhampton p disreſſionem & confiliū Johis Baldefwell tunc ibm Maioris Roſti

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME  
OF JOHN BALDESWELL <sup>245</sup>  
MAYOR IN THE 20TH YEAR OF  
THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VI  
FOR THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF THE  
MAYOR.

Memorandum that on Monday [16th July, 1442] next before the feast of St Margaret the Virgin in the 20th year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth after the Conquest at a Hustings held at the Guildhall of the town of Northampton by the discretion and counsel of John Baldeswell then mayor of the same Robert

<sup>245</sup> John Baldeswell was mayor of the town in 1441-2.

Tanfield Recordar<sup>t</sup> Witti Russden se<sup>n</sup> Henric Stones Johis Hancock Witti Russden ju<sup>n</sup> Ac alioz qm plurimoz de viginti quatuor comburgensib<sup>z</sup> suis in domo consulari ibm int<sup>r</sup> ceta concordar<sup>t</sup> est & stabilitum qd si Aliquis de viginti quatuor combur<sup>g</sup> vel Aliquis Alius tam ad consilium Maioris qm ad secretū consiliū dēe ville Norhampton Adiurat scandalizauit vel Alicui narrauerit quoquomodo Aliquam rem vel aliquam causam int<sup>r</sup> eos adinuicem cōicatam in Aliquo secreto cōsilio seu aliquod verbum in dēo secreto consilio pba<sup>t</sup> siue dictū Et sup hoc convictus fuit coram maiore & suo consilio . Prima vice incurrat penam xls . soluend<sup>e</sup> ad vsum & pficiu cam<sup>e</sup> dēe ville fine Aliqua pdonatōe . Et si sēda vice de eodm convictus fuit coram maiore et suo consilio incurrat sili<sup>t</sup> penam Centum solidos soluend<sup>e</sup> ad vsum & pficiu cam<sup>e</sup> dēe ville fine aliqua pdonatōe . Et vltra ad expellende & deprivand<sup>e</sup> eum qui talis deliquerit . A dēo consilio maioris Acetiam a secreto consilio dēe ville Norhampton quousq Maior dēe ville Norhampton qui p temp

Tanfield recorder William Russden Senr Henry Stones John Hancock William Russden Junr and many others of their 24 fellow-burgesses in the Council-house there among other things it was agreed and established that if any one of the 24 fellow-burgesses or any other person sworn as well to the council of the mayor as to the privy council of the said town of Northampton shall have spread abroad or told to anyone in any way any matter or any cause communicated amongst them mutually in any privy council or any word in the said privy council tried or spoken And shall have been convicted of this before the mayor and his council The first time shall incur a penalty of 40s. to be paid to the use and profit of the chamber of the said town without any pardon And if a second time he shall have been convicted of the same before the Mayor and his council he shall in like manner incur a penalty of 100s. to be paid to the use and profit of the chamber of the said town without any pardon And besides to the expelling and depriving him who shall have committed such delinquency from the said council of the mayor and also from the privy council of the said town of Northampton until the mayor of the said town of Northampton for the time being

No coonsayler  
open the coun-  
cill of the  
maior.

[Folio 49a.]

fuit p discretionem & Auisiamentū  
sui consilij melius Auisiaſt fuit &c

by the discretion and advice of  
his council shall have been better  
advised &c

ORDINACO FACT ARTIS CISSOX

TEMPE THOME DERAUNT  
MAIORIS ANNO RR H VJ<sup>4</sup>

VNIU<sup>9</sup>SIS XPI FFIDELIBZ hoc  
presens scriptum indentatum in-  
specturis visuris vel audituris  
Thomas Deraut mayor ville  
Norhampton Ac viginti quatuor  
Comburentessuisibi iurati Saltm  
in dño sempitnam Cum in con-  
silio gen<sup>9</sup>ali dce ville Norhampton  
idm ten<sup>9</sup> die lune p<sup>z</sup> post festum  
S<sup>t</sup> Andree apt Anno regni  
Regis Henrici sexti post conq<sup>9</sup>n  
vicesimo xio p quandam petition-  
em p bilam eis appositam & mon-  
tratam p cōi pscuo & honestate  
dce ville in se continentem qd cum  
ars Ciſſoris in dca villa vbi gen<sup>9</sup>osi  
& alij ligei d<sup>m</sup> Regis qm plurimi  
p aptatione vestm suaz & suo<sup>z</sup> s<sup>9</sup>-  
uientū ac libertaz suaz in dies con-  
fluant ad eandem nulla . tamen

[Folio 49b.]

ORDINANCE MADE FOR THE  
CRAFT OF TAILORS IN THE TIME  
OF THOMAS DERAUNT<sup>246</sup>

MAYOR IN THE YEAR OF  
THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VI.

To all the faithful of Christ  
who shall inspect see or bear  
this present indented writing  
Thomas Deraunt mayor of the  
town of Northampton and his  
24 fellow-burgesses sworn to  
him Health in the Lord ever-  
lasting Whereas in a general  
Council of the said town of  
Northampton there holden on  
Monday [7th December, 1444]  
next after the feast of S<sup>t</sup>. Andrew  
the Apostle in the 23rd year of  
the reign of Henry the Sixth  
after the Conquest by a certain  
petition by bill submitted and  
shown to them for the common  
profit and honesty of the said  
town containing in itself that  
whereas the craft of tailors in  
the said town where gentlemen  
and other lieges of the Lord  
King many in number for the  
fitting of their clothes and those  
of their menservants and maid-  
servants from day to day betake  
themselves to the same but yet

<sup>246</sup> Thomas Deraunt was mayor of the town in 1444-5.

regta sive ordo posita constat in dicta arte in artifices ministros q; artis illius. Sed qd quicq; eoꝝ ita grandem & habilem reputat se magistrꝫ sicut & alium. Quapropter multociens d̄ci gen'os diuini q; ligei d̄m Regis p in habili aptacione sunt int̄ dum deliorati & decepti in eoꝝ p̄iudicm d̄cē q; ville scandalum & detrimentum. Idcirco pd̄cūs Maior & d̄ci Comburgenses sui ex assentiu Cōitatis dicte ville Volentes in d̄ca arte ordinem & bonam regulam appon'ē & ordinare p̄ comodo & honore d̄cē ville & ad Dei laudem & honorem imppm duratuꝫ Per hoc qd ordo sive bona regula d̄cē Artis idem pfectius & fidelius ex'ceat'. hanc constitutōem & ordinatōem subsequentes statuant p̄ lege in d̄ca villa imppm duratuꝫ eo qd p̄ libertates & p̄uilegia illis p̄ dum regem & progenitores suos concessā & confirmata p̄ que possunt in alia leges in eos condere p̄ d̄cē ville regimine conseruande. In p̄mis eligunt & ponūt Joh̄em Cleyhunger & Joh̄em Lylie artis pd̄cē Magros & supuiores ac defectuū in eadīn correctores

no rule or positive order exists in the said craft between the masters and journeymen of that craft. But that each one of them esteems himself as good and skilful a master as another. Wherefore oftentimes the said gentlemen and divers lieges of the Lord King for unskilful fitting are sometimes injured and deceived to their prejudice and the scandal and loss of the said town. Therefore the aforesaid mayor and the said fellow-burgesses of his by the assent of the commonalty of the said town wishing in the said craft to lay down order and good rule and to ordain [them] to endure for ever for the advantage and honour of the said town and to the praise and honour of God. And by this means that the order or good rule of the said craft may be there more perfectly and faithfully exercised they appoint this constitution and ordinance following to endure in the said town as a law for ever because that by the liberties and privileges conceded and confirmed to them by the Lord King and his progenitors by which they are able among other things to establish laws among themselves for the government of the said town to be kept. First they elect & set John Cleyhunger & John Lylie masters and supervisors of the said craft and correctors of

p Anno proximo sequentis. Et qd ipi & successores sui hant aulam suam in qua potunt cum velint omnes dictam artem in villa pdca ex<sup>r</sup>centes conuocare & convocatos absentes punire Et ibm de seipis duos hiusmodi magros p anno ab ele<sup>c</sup>ione sua p mansuros elig<sup>e</sup> qui Sacramentu coram Maiore dece ville prestabunt in consilio gen<sup>erali</sup> fideliter occupare . Et qd potestatem hant omnes transgresiores & eo<sup>r</sup> defectus plena<sup>r</sup> corrigende Saluo semp qd si contingat controviam in<sup>r</sup> eos ptialiter laboriri tenende illam ad maiorem in villa pdic<sup>r</sup> existent p tempe diuter emandande . Et ne puni<sup>r</sup>cones nimis grues ponant delinquentib<sup>y</sup> vel pecuni<sup>a</sup> ab eis voluntar<sup>e</sup> extorqueat in lucrum suu pprm conuertende . Sed emandas p delictis & alias sumas ab homib<sup>y</sup> artis illius iuste cap*t* in Deilaudem & eiusdem Artis melioratem pie & meritorie put sequit tribuat & disponat ac reglam & ordinem in<sup>r</sup> eos teneant sequentis . videtit qd nullus cissor

abuses in the same for the year next following And that they and their successors may have their hall in which they shall be able when they choose to call together all persons exercising the said craft in the town aforesaid and to punish those who when called together absent themselves And there to elect out of themselves two masters of this sort to remain for a year from their election who shall take an oath before the mayor of the said town in a general council to occupy [their office] faithfully And that they may have power of fully correcting all transgressors and their defects Saving always that if it shall happen that a dispute among them should arise it must be transferred to the mayor in the town aforesaid for the time being to be set right And they must not inflict too heavy punishments upon delinquents or deliberately extort money from them to be applied to their own proper gain But they must assign and dispose the amends for faults and other sums justly taken from the men of that craft to the praise of God and the amelioration of the same craft piously and duly as follows and must hold the following rule and order amongst them namely that no tailor shall

teneat Shopam in villa p̄dēa nec in suburbījs eiusdem priuīqm p̄ Magros Artis p̄dēe sciens & habiliis in eadīm & suis morib⁹ p̄ vtilitate dēe ville idoneus sit probatus . Et tunc in principio erectionis Shope sue soluat eiusdem māgris scitit quīlt extraneus tres solidos & quatuor denār̄ Et quīlt alius more apprenticij infra villam p̄dēam in eadem eruditus viginti denār̄ quoꝝ ipi māgri medietatem majori & cōi s̄uienti ville p̄dēe ad vsum proficium eoꝝdem Maioris et Cōitatis liþabunt . Ac aliam medietatem eiusdem māgris retinebunt p̄ cōib⁹ necessarijs & negotijs eiusdem artis . Ac ad sustentationis frañitatis S̄ei Johis Baptiste & luminis circa Eukaristiam in Ecclia Ōni Scoꝝ North expendend̄ . Et qd nullus Cisfor teneat cam⁹am in p̄dēa villa nec i suis suburbījs p̄t qm̄ p̄ sui iþius ac vx⁹is & p̄uoꝝ

have a shop in the town aforesaid or in the suburbs of the same before he be approved by the masters of the craft aforesaid learned and skilful in it and by his character fit for the utility of the said town And then at the beginning of the erection of his shop he shall pay to the same masters that is to say every stranger three shillings and four pence And every other person trained in the manner of an apprentice within the town aforesaid in the same twenty pence whereof the masters themselves shall deliver a moiety to the mayor and common serjeant of the town aforesaid to the use [and] profit of the same mayor and commonalty And the other moiety they shall retain to the same masters for the common necessities and businesses of the same craft and to be expended for the sustentation of the fraternity of St John the Baptist and of the light about the Eu- charist in the Church of All Saints<sup>247</sup> at Northampton And that no tailor shall have a chamber in the aforesaid town or in its suburbs except for the making of his own private

[Folio 5ob.]

<sup>247</sup> All Saints' church was, and still is, the principal church in the town. The Hospital of St. John Baptist was founded in 1137; the remains of the buildings are in Bridge Street.

suoꝝ p̄prijs vestibꝝ consuende. Et si aliquis Ciſſor repiat in hoc  
 delinquens p̄ moderatam miam p̄  
 dēos maḡros aut maiorem vt p̄ſert'  
 aſſedendꝫ. Et in vlibꝝ necellarijs  
 p̄dēis equalit̄ diuidendꝫ. donec  
 huiusmodi camꝝ amiserit casti-  
 get. Et qd omnes impolꝝum ad-  
 uenientes Ciſſores artis p̄dēe infra  
 villam Norhamptoꝫ in Confres  
 dēe ffranitatis S̄ci Johis Baptiste  
 p̄ Maḡros artis supradēe ſint re-  
 cepti pariꝫ & iurati ad ſubeundm  
 ordinatoibꝝ & conſtitutonibꝝ eius-  
 dem ffranitatis & ad ſoluende  
 quarflagia ſua & alia on'a eidem  
 ffranitati de conf'ribꝝ eiusdem  
 exconſuetudine debita Jn cuius  
 rei teſtimonium pti huius Scripti  
 indentati penes Maḡros artis  
 p̄dcte remanenti. Tam ſigillum  
 Cōe p̄dēe ville Norhamptoꝫ qm̄  
 Sigillum officij maioratus eiusdem  
 ville ſunt appenſ. Alſa vero p̄  
 eiusdem ſcripti indentati penes  
 p̄dcos maiorem & xxijij<sup>o</sup> Combur-  
 genſ in Cōi Cifta eiusdem ville in  
 celas evidencias imppm̄ custodiend  
 ſub ſigillis dcoꝝ Johis Cleyhunger  
 & Johis Lylle maḡoꝝ

[Folio 51a.]

clothes and those of his wife  
 and sons And if any tailor be  
 found a delinquent herein he  
 must be punished by a moderate  
 penalty to be assessed by the  
 ſaid masters or mayors as is  
 ſaid before and to be equally  
 divided in the necessary uses  
 aforesaid until he ſhall have got  
 rid of a chamber of this ſort  
 And that all tailors of the craft  
 aforesaid hereafter coming within  
 the town of Northampton  
 ſhall be received on equal terms  
 among the brethren of the ſaid  
 fraternity of S̄t John the Bap-  
 tist by the masters of the  
 craft aforesaid and be ſworn to  
 submit to the ordinances and  
 customs of the same fraternity  
 and to pay their quarterages  
 and other charges customarily  
 due to the same fraternity from  
 the brethren of the same to  
 testimony whereof to the part  
 of this indented writing re-  
 maining with the masters of  
 the craft aforesaid the common  
 ſeal of the aforesaid town of  
 Northampton as well as the  
 ſeal of the office of mayor of  
 the same town are appended  
 And the other part of the same  
 indented writing under the ſeals  
 of the ſaid John Cleyhunger &  
 John Lylle the masters aforesaid  
 remains and is conſigned to  
 be kept by the aforesaid mayor  
 and 24 fellow-burgesses in the

þdcoꝝ residet consignat. Daꝝ Norhamptoꝝ viceſimo die Menſis Auguſtij . Anno regni Regis Henrici ſexti poſt conqueſtum viceſimo tertio &c

common cheſt of the ſame town among other evidences for ever  
Dated at Northampton on the 20th day of the month of Auguſt [Friday, 20th Auguſt, 1445] in the 23rd year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth after the Conqueſt &c

Henricus dei ḡra Rex Anglie & francie & dominus H̄bie Omnipotens ad quos p̄ſentes litt̄e pueſſint Saltm̄ Inſpeximus quandam petitionem nobis in p̄ſenti parlia‐ mento n̄o p̄ coitatem regni n̄i Augl in eodem parliamento exiſtē p̄ Maiore & Coitatem ville n̄e Norhamptoꝝ exhibiſt in hec v̄ba

Henry by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland to all to whom these present letters shall come greeting We have inspected a certain petition exhibited to us in our present parliament by the commonalty of our Kingdom of England in the same parliament existing for the mayor and commonalty of our town of Northampton in these words

[Folio 51b.]

Priouint les Mair & Cōialte de la ville de Norhampton q̄ pleafe a les ditz tūages cōnes deprier a Roi n̄e l'ouain l'ordiner & grantier p̄ aſſen des l'or's ſpuelx & temporelx & toutz les ditz Cōes a cest p̄ſent plement aſſembliez ac les ditz Mair & Cōialte & a lour ſuccelſioꝝ a toutz io's q̄ le Mair de dēe ville qoreſt & chescun Mair de meſme la ville ap̄s pur le temps eſtant p̄ra loiament compeller & conſtrein chescun pſone de quele eſtat ou condicion q̄ il soit q̄ eſt

The mayor and commonalty of the town of Northampton pray that it may please the ſaid moſt learned commons to pray the king our moſt ſovereign lord to ordain and grant by the aſſent of the lords ſpiritual and temporal and all the ſaid commons at this present parliament aſſembled to the ſaid mayor and commonalty and their successors for ever that the mayor of the ſaid town that now is and each mayor of the ſame town afterwards for the time being may lawfully compel and constrain every person of what eſtate or condition he may be that is

[Folio 52a.]

seisi dascuny mees ou teñt on son demesne come de franc teñt buttant sur ascun haut chemyn ou Rue du dēe ville pur nouvelment pauer & ap̄s tout temps bussonable repareler cest assauer du le front du tiel mees ou teñt iefq; al my del chanell du tiel chemyn ou Rue & en laydur du lune corner du tiel mees ou teñt iefq; a lautre Corner du mesme le mees Et q̄ le Mair dēe de ville p' le temps esteant q̄nt il veye q̄ mestier s̄rra . enquerge p̄ enquest des bones & loialx gentz de mesme la ville de ceux que soient defectives de la reparacion aūnt dēe & sur ceo face garny les ditz defectours defair lour dēe reparacion Et ascun p̄sonne esteant seisi en ascun mees ou teñt en la fourme aūant dēe deins la dēe ville & il ou son fermour en sa absence soit garny p̄ le Mair du dēe ville p' le temps esteant pur nouvelment pauer ou repareler en temps bussonable enus son mees ou teñt en le man<sup>2</sup> suisdit & ne paue mye nouvelment ne repareler deins trois moys ap̄s tiel garnissement fait qadonques bien lise a le Mair du dit ville p' le temps esteant p̄ lauctorite suisdit a distremer & suffit. distresse

seized of any messuage or tenement in his demesne as of freehold abutting on any high road or street of the said town to pave anew and afterwards at all times needful to repair that is to say from the front of such messuage or tenement as far as the middle of the channel of such road or street and in width from the one corner of such messuage or tenement as far as the other corner of the same messuage And that the mayor of the said town for the time being when he perceives that it is needful shall enquire by the quest of good and loyal folk of the same town concerning those which are defective of repair as aforesaid and on that to cause to summon the said defaulters to make their said repairs And each person being seized of any messuage or tenement in the form before said within the said town of and he or his tenant in his absence being warned by the mayor of the said town for the time being to pave anew or repair in times needful about his messuage or tenement in manner abovesaid and does not pave newly to the middle nor repair within three months after such warning allowed then it shall be lawful for the mayor of the said town for the time being by the authority abovesaid to distrain and sufficient distress to

resterer ieq̄ a taunt q̄ tel pament soit nouelment fait ou reparelle ou autrement q̄ adonq̄ bien lise a le Mair du dēe [ville] p' le temps esteant p̄ mesme lauctorite pur defendre la rent du tel mees ou teñt en les mains de le sermour du tel mees ou teñt & cell rent issint defendu loialment leuer & pñdre & ouetq̄ mesme le rent faire ou repareler tel pament come deuaunt est dit. In spexim<sup>e</sup> etiam indorsamentum eiusdem petitōis in eodm<sup>m</sup> parliamento nō s̄cm in hec v̄ba Soit fait come il est desire p̄ les hautes chemyns & rues du dēe ville ensuant; cestassauoir pur les hautes chemyns de porte du dēe ville en le North tanq̄ a la porte en le Este & auxi pur les rues appellez Berewardestrete Seint Gilesstrete Swynwelstrete Kyngewellestrete Seint Maristrete Seint Martynstrete & le chemyn appelle le Marketplace Issint q̄ nully q̄ ad aſcun mees ou teñt abuttant au dit chemyn appelle Marketplace ne soit constraint ou compelle p̄ force de celle ordinaunce de faire de nouell ou repaire aſcun pauement en le man<sup>g</sup> suis- dēe deūnt son dit mees ou teñt enī abuttant

retain until that such pavement shall be newly made or repaired or otherwise that then it shall be very lawful for the mayor of the said [town] for the time being by the same authority to restrain the rent of such messuage or tenement in the hands of the tenant of such messuage or tenement and such rent thus restrained lawfully to raise and take and also with the same rent to make or repair such pavement as before is said We have likewise inspected the endorsement of the same petition made in this our parliament in these words Let it be done as is desired for the high roads and streets of the said town following that is to say for the high roads from the gate of the said town in the North as far as the bridge called Saint Thomas' Bridge in the South and for the road from the gate in the West as far as the gate in the East and also for the streets called Berward street Saint Giles' street Swynwell street Kingswell street Saint Mary's street Saint Martin's street and the road called the Market place So that no one who has any messuage or tenement abutting on the said road called Market place shall be constrained nor compelled by force of this ordinance to make anew or repair any pavement in the manner abovesaid before his said messuage or tenement thus abutting

[Folio 55b.]

sur la dēe marketplace outre xxx  
pees en longure del front de son  
dit mees ou teñ et q̄ le remenant  
de mesme le Market place soit  
pauet & repairee del cōe costage  
de tout la ville de inſdēe . Nos autem  
tenores petitionis & doriamenti  
pdcōz ad requisitonem Maioris &  
Cōitatis ville n̄e p̄dē tenore p̄  
ſenlēm duximus exemplificand . In  
cuius rei testimōiu has iras n̄as  
fieri fecimus patentes Test Humfr̄  
Duce Glouceſt̄ Custode Angl̄  
apud Westmonast̄ium xvij die  
Marcij Anno regni n̄i nono

Prestwyk.

on the said Market place over  
thirty feet in length from the  
front of his said messuage or  
tenement and that the remainder  
of the said Market place shall  
be paved and repaired at the  
common cost of the whole town  
aforesaid We have moreover  
at the request of the mayor and  
commonalty of our town afore-  
said caused to be now drawn  
up this transcript of the petition  
and endorsement aforesaid held  
by the tenor of these presents In  
witness whereof we have caused  
these our letters to be made patent  
Witness Humphrey <sup>24</sup> Duke of  
Gloucester Guardian of Eng-  
land at Westminster the 18th  
day of March [Fifth Sunday in  
Lent, 18th March, 1431 <sup>25</sup>] in the  
ninth year of our reign

Prestwyk

Henry by the grace of God  
king of England and France and  
Lord of Ireland to all to whom  
these present letters shall come  
Greeting We have inspected a  
certain petition exhibited to us  
in our present parliament by the  
commonalty of our kingdom of  
England in the same parliament  
existing for the mayor and com-  
monalty of our town of North-  
ampton in these words

[Folio 53a.]

Henricus Dei grā Rex Anglie &  
ffrancie & Dominus H̄mnie Om-  
nib; ad quos p̄ſentes ire puen<sup>26</sup>int  
saltm Jn spexim<sup>27</sup> quandam pe-  
titionem nob̄ in p̄ſenti parlia-  
mento n̄o p Cōitatem regni n̄i  
Angl in eodem parliamento exiſten  
p maiore & Cōitate ville n̄e Nor-  
hampton exhibiſ in hec v̄ba.

<sup>24</sup> "Humphrey de Lancaster," the fourth son of Henry IV., became Guardian and Lieutenant of England in 1417, and Constable of Rockingham Castle in 1437. He died in 1446.

<sup>25</sup> In the exemplification of this Act, now with the monuments of the borough, hereinbefore mentioned on page 74, the date 1430 originally indorsed was incorrect.

The Maire and Cōmynalte of the town of Norhampton haue deſrid  
 that it myght please the kyngis grace to ordeyn and graunt by  
 thaffent of the lordes ſƿuell and Tempall and all the Cōmys at  
 the þent parliament aſembled. To the Maire and Cōialte and to  
 their ſuccelloures for eū. That the Maire of the ſame town that now  
 is And eū Maire of the ſame Town aftir for the tyme beyng May  
 lawfully compelle & conſtrayn eū parſone of what eſtate or condycion  
 he be of. Which is ſeaſed of any meſe or Teñt in his demene as of  
 free holde buttyng vpon any hye waye of the kynge of the ſame  
 Town to pave newe And aftir at all tymes nedefull repayre. That is  
 to ſey from the fronte of the ſame Meſe or Teñt vnto the mydis  
 or the Chanell of the ſaide highe wey. And in brede from the oon  
 Corner of the howſe vnto that other. And that the maire of the  
 town for the tyme beyng when nede ſhall require ſhall enquer by  
 an queit of good and lawfull folkis of the ſame town of them that  
 byn defectyve of their Repacion aſorfaide And vpon that to Warne  
 the ſame defectours to make the repacon. And if any plone ſo ſo  
 beyng ſeaſed of any Meſe or Teñt in the forme Aforeſeide within  
 the ſaide Town. And he or his ffermour in his Absence be warnyd  
 by the maior of the ſame town for the tyme beyng To pave and  
 repaire the pawment in tyme of nede Ayen theire owne meſe or teñt  
 in man<sup>2</sup> Abouefaid. And wilnot make Reparacion w'in iij Monythes  
 aftir this warnyng hadde That than it ſhalbe leſfull to the Maire  
 for the tyme beyng by the Auctorite abouefaid to diſtreyn that  
 diſtreſſe to with holde till ſuche tyme As the ſame pawment be  
 ſufficienly repaired & made. Or ellis that the Maire by the ſame  
 Auctorite may Reſtreyn and kepe the Rent of the ſame meſe or  
 teñt And with the ſame rent to repayre ſufficiently the ſame paw-  
 ment. In like man<sup>2</sup> it was graunted for theiſe highe weyes. That is  
 to ſey from the North yate vnto Seynt Thomas Brygge. And from the  
 Weste yate vnto the Eſt yate. And allſo Berwarditrete Seint Gyles  
 ſtrete Swynwellſtrete Kyngeſwellſtrete Seint Mary ſtrete Seint Martyn  
 ſtrete. And the wey called the Merket place. So that noo man that  
 haue eny meſe or teñt buttyng vpon the Highe Wey called the  
 Merket place be not conſtreyned nor compeled be the force of this  
 ſame ordeynaunce to make newe or repaire any pawment in the  
 maner Abouefaid Aſfore his meſe or teñt ſoo Abutting vpon the  
 ſeide m<sup>2</sup>ket place by yonde xxxii fote of lenght from the frout of the  
 ſame meſe or teñt. And that the Remnaunt of the ſame merket place  
 be paved & repayred of the Cōmen coſte of the toun Aſforſeide

[Folio 53b.]

for pavynge  
of the ſtretes

[Folio 54a.]

Nos autem tenores petitionis & in  
dorsamenti pdeoz ad requisitonem  
Maioris & Cōitatis ville nři pdēe  
tenore pſentm duxim⁹ exemplifi-  
cande Jn cuius rei testimoniū  
has tr̃as nřas fieri fecimus patentes  
Teste Humſrō duce Glouceſt̃ Cus-  
tode Angl apud Westm̃ xvij die  
Marcij Anno regni nři nono

Prestwyk

Ex' p Wittm Prestwik  
& Thomam Haseley Clercs

We have moreover at the request  
of the mayor and commonalty of  
our town aforesaid caused to be  
now drawn up this transcript of  
the petition and endorsement  
aforesaid held by the tenor of these  
presents In witness whereof we  
cause these our letters to be made  
patent Witness Humfrey Duke  
of Gloucester Guardian of Eng-  
land at Westminster the 18th  
day of March [Fifth Sunday in  
Lent, 18th March, 1431] in the  
ninth year of our reign

Prestwyk

Drawn out by William Prest-  
wick and Thomas Haseley Clerks

[Folio 5ab.]

Quia Maioris Ville Norhampton  
in Offic Maioratus eoꝝ ad g'ues  
expens & custus indies deducunt<sup>r</sup>  
iuxta illoꝝ feoda illis Allocat<sup>r</sup> &  
assignat<sup>r</sup> p Anno sui officij que  
quidem feod constant de c<sup>o</sup>to put  
ex antiquo tempor<sup>r</sup> plene patet.  
Hinc est Memorand qd die Ven⁹ is  
pr ante festum S̃i Dionisi m̃ris  
Anno rr Henrici sexti post con-  
questum xxvij<sup>o</sup> Ad colloquium ten<sup>r</sup>  
in Guyhald ibm Gilberto Litstere  
eiusdem ville Maioꝝ Ac Joꝝ Peny  
& Wittmo Grene tunc ibm bailiffs

Whereas the mayors of the town  
of Northampton in their office of  
mayor are daily led into grievous  
expenses and costs beyond their  
fees allotted and assigned to  
them for the year of their office  
which fees are fixed without  
change as from ancient time is  
quite clear therefore it is to be  
remembered that on Friday [4th  
October, 1448] next before the  
feast of S<sup>t</sup>. Denys the martyr in  
the 27th year of the reign of  
King Henry the Sixth after the  
Conquest At a conference holden  
in the Guildhall there Gilbert  
Litstere <sup>250</sup> being mayor of the  
same town and John Peny and  
William Grene then bailiffs there

<sup>250</sup> Gilbert Litstere, Lyster, or Lyester, was mayor of the town in 1448-9, and 1457-8. Gilbert Littlester was one of the members for the town at the parliament held 25th Henry VI.

ordinatum tunc existit & p[ro]uisum ex omni consensu tunc ib[us] min[us] sententia qui vnanimes pure & sponte concesserunt q[uod] antiqua consuetudo maiorum ville Norhampton que semp[er] soluta non stetit sed semp[er] ad huc praeservant[ur] firma & stabilita permanuit cuius principij memoria non constat de recordo. videlicet q[uod] omnes Burgenses maiores ville Norhampton qui postquam officium Maioratus sui singuli per Anno p[ro]impleuerint & artem Bratinalem in Domibus suis occupaverint. intendunt & frequentantur. Non amplius arceantur neque compellantur battis dictae ville Norhampton per tempore existentes neque successoribus suis aliquam sumam pecunie arti praedictae spectantur omnino solueantur. neque teneantur vigilas sine excubias estiuales sive Autumnales sed semper ordinatis praedictis officiis neque penitus custodiuntur sed inde temp[er]t quieti tempore per futurum

it is ordained and provided by the consent of all then and there present who unanimously rightly and voluntarily agreed that the ancient custom of the mayors of the town of Northampton which has never been dissolved but always up to this time has remained surely firm and established the memory of the beginning of which is not on record namely that all burgesses mayors of the town of Northampton who after they have severally discharged the office of their mayoralty for a year and intend to practise and continue the art of Brewing in their houses shall no more be obliged or compelled to pay at all any sum of money pertaining to the art aforesaid to the bailiffs of the said town of Northampton for the time being or their successors nor shall they be held to observe watches or guards in the summer or autumn according to the ordinance aforesaid nor to keep inner watch but shall ever be quit of that for future time

A mayor after his  
mayoralty shall  
not pay for  
brewing nor  
keep watche

ORDINACIO FACTA TEMPE  
GILBERTI LICESTER MAIORIS PER  
PORCIS CIRCUVAGANTIBUS IN VILLA

Ad congregatoem generali  
habitum & tenet in Ecclesia sancti

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE  
TIME OF GILBERT LICESTER <sup>251</sup>  
MAYOR FOR PIGS THAT  
ROAM ABOUT IN THE TOWN

At a general congregation had  
and holden in the Church of St

[Folio 55a.]

<sup>251</sup> Gilbert Lester, Lyster, or Lyester, was mayor of the town in 1448-9, and 1457-8. Gilbert Littlester was one of the members for the town at the parliament held 25th Henry VI.

Egidij ville Norhampton die m̄urij p̄ ante festum s̄c̄i Dionisij m̄ris Anno f̄ f̄ Henrici sexti post conquestum Tricesimo sexto tempe Gilbti Listere maioris p̄ eius eximiam discretionem et totius Cōitatis Assensum ordinatum constitut̄ & stabilit̄ existit. Quod nullus homo nec semina dimitteret porcos suos in plateis vicis seu venillis infra villam ire Et si aliquis inventus fuit transgressor p̄ talibz porcis cont̄ ordinaioem istam ita circum vagantibz qd tunc soluat ad primam captōem Camarijs ville Norhampton p̄ quolibt porco sic capt⁹ iiijd. Et si sepius p̄ dēos Camarios capiant⁹ qd tunc dict⁹ porci vendant ad p̄ficiū Cam⁹ ville p̄notate nisi infra quatuor dies extunc p̄ sequent⁹ tales posseſſores porcoz ita captoz aggreauit cum Camarijs p̄ tempe existent⁹ Ac dict⁹ ordinaio imp̄n duratur.

Giles in the town of Northampton on Wednesday [5th October, 1457] next before the feast of St Denys the martyr in the 36th year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth after the Conquest in the time of Gilbert Lycester Mayor by his excellent discretion and the assent of the whole commonalty it is ordained constituted and established that no man nor woman shall let his or her pigs go in the streets roads or lanes within the town And if any shall be found a transgressor for such pigs contrary to this ordinance so roaming about that then he shall pay for the first capture to the chamberlains of the town of Northampton for every pig so taken qd And if often by the said chamberlains they be taken that then the said pigs shall be sold to the profit of the chamber of the town before named unless within four days then next following such owners of pigs so taken agree with the chamberlains for the time being And the said ordinance to endure for ever

ORDINAÇO FACT TEMPE THOME BRAFELD MAIORIS A° R R H  
VJ<sup>u</sup> XXXJ<sup>o</sup> PRO ARTE FFULLORUM CAP<sup>o</sup>

[ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF THOMAS BRAFELD<sup>249</sup> IN  
THE 31ST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HENRY VI FOR THE  
CRAFT OF FULLERS CHAPTER.]

At the Comyn semble holden in the Chirche of Seint Gyle in

<sup>249</sup> Thomas Brafeld, or Brafield, was mayor of the town in 1452-3.

toun of Norhampton the Wedoneysday [11th October 1452] next aftir Seynt Denys day in the yere of kyng Henry Abovenseide by the Aisent of the seide Maire his xxiiij Comburges; and all the Cominalte of the seide toun ther being is Accorded And ppetually to endure. ffrste that is to say that the Mair of the seide town by the Auctorite of the kyng to him commytted charge the houholders of the seide fullerisaste to Asssemble and comyne to gedyr euy yere dones vpon Seint Thomas day the Appostell [21st December] at the ffrer prechos<sup>253</sup> in the seide toun. Ther to chese ij sufficiante psones of the same crafte to be serchers ther of for the yere following. And ij wardens maistres of the same crafte to serche and correcte as well the warkmanship of the seide serchers as all other defautes in the same crafte And that awell the seide ij. maistres as the ij. serchers so chosen at the next hustynge day after the seide election apper in the Gyldehall of the seide toun Affor the Mair for the tyme beyng There to be sworne that the seide ij. maisters dewly shall serche and correcte the warkmanship of the seide ij. serchers. And the same ij. serchers. thre dayes or too dayes at the leste euy weke shall serche thorowe the seide crafte All man<sup>2</sup> defautes deceytes and hurtes therof. And theym duly and Justely withoute fauour or hate punyhe and correcte be suche synnes as shalbe thouȝt to the seide maisters resonable for the seide offens by the aisent and oisight of the Maire for the tyme beyng. And that euy houholder of the seide crafte beyng in the seide town at the seide day of ellecion be there present in the same semble vpon the payne of ij. li. wax or the price therof to the seide craft to be paied but if he be feke or haue any other resonable cause of lette. And if the seide ij. serchers be negligent and execute not dewly their seide serche in man<sup>2</sup> and forme aforeseide. the seide maisters to sette hem at suche fyne as they shull seme resonable for euy offence be the oisight of the maire for the tyme beyng. And that noo fuller occupying the seid crafte bere nor delyuȝ eny cloth be hym wrought oute of his godnaunce vnto suche tyme at it be sene serched and proved be the seide serchers vpon payne of. xij d. to be paied to the seide crafte as often as eny is in that defaute. And if the owner of any suche clothe so delyued not serched nor proved compleyn and shewe to the seide maisters

[Folio 55b.]

[Folio 56a.]

<sup>253</sup> The house of the Black Friars or Friars Preachers, was situate in the Horse-market, Northampton. It appears to have been founded about 1240.

for the tyme beyng of any hurte or defaute in werkmanship . Then the  
 feide maisters to sette hym that so delyued it atte suche syne as shall  
 seeme to hem resonable by the Assent and oulght of the mayer for  
 the tyme beyng . And if the seide serchers fynde and preve greate  
 defaulthe of non habylite of stuff & conyng in warkmanship to haue  
 rewle and kepyng the charge of mennys good of clothemakyng in  
 eny fluler of the seide crafte . That thei haue power to discharche  
 hym of the seide occupacion in the seide toun . suche cause reson-  
 able shewed . and proved afore the Mayre for the tyme beyng . And  
 that the forfaiture of all suche fynes Aboueseid may be disposed  
 and put the oon halfe of hem to be delyued to the Maire for tyme  
 beyng as comen tresoure to the seide toun . And the tother halfe  
 of the same sustenaunce of thre tapres in the Chyche of Allhalowen  
 afore Seint John Baptiste . And for asmyche as the forfaiture of  
 suche fynes for offences is but casuall to the sustenaunce of the  
 seide lyght . That it lyke you to ordelyn that euy fluler which has  
 nott bien Apprentice to the same crafte in the toun of North by  
 the terme of . iiiij . yere at the leste trewly served and fulfilled that  
 shall sett vp crafte and occupie housholde in the same toun may  
 be proved be the Maisters of the same crafte suffycyante and able  
 to occupie and kepe charge and rewle of mennes good afore the  
 maire for the tyme beyng . And to paie to the sustenaunce of the  
 seide lightes . vjs . viijd . And to the seide Maire as Comen tresoure

(Folio 56b.)

for the toun vjs . viijd at his comyng in and begynnyng . And  
 yerely astir duryng his occupation he and euy houholder of the  
 same crafte to sustentacion of the same lightes . iiiij d . And that eay  
 fluler which hath been prentes at the seide crafte in the seide  
 toun afore this ordynaunce made or shalbe at the leste by the  
 space of iiiij yere as it is aforside that shall sett vp crafte and  
 occupie howiolde in the same town may be proved by the Maisters of  
 the seide crafte for the tyme beyng sufficient and able to occupie and  
 kepe charge and rewle of menes good afore the Maire for the tyme  
 beyng . And for to paie to the sustenaunce of the seide lightes xxd .  
 And to the seide Maier as comen tresour of the toun xxd . at his  
 comyng in and begynnyng . And that no houholder of the seide  
 crafte vex nor emplede other houholder of the same crafte in the  
 Courte of this toun nor eny other withoute lefe . Asked of the  
 Maisters for tyme beyng be the space of . xv . daies astir the miche  
 lefe asked vppon payne of vjs viij d the one halfe therof to the  
 Maire as comen tresoure of the town . And the other halfe to the

(Folio 57a.)

sustinaunce of the seide lightes as is Aforfeide. And if the seide Maisters do not her trewe diligence and laboure and sette the pties at ende Within the seid xv daies than the pties to be at large and sewe astur the custom and viage of the seide toun. And that no ffuller of the seide crafte take more for a cloth trewly wrought for his warkmanhip of any clothmaker of the seide toun. nor thei hau takyn of olde tyme for a cloth that was trewly wrought before this acte made. In peyne of the forfeture of all the Articles conteigned in the ordinauce before writen. siche mater and cause founden and proved before the maire for the tyme beyng and his counsell. And that this petition and articles Aforefeide may be enacte and enrolled in this Comoen Semble And the transcripte therof to be delyued be the Mayer to suche as ben most sufficiaunt in the same crafte ensealed aswell with the seall of the mayeralte as with the Comoen seal of the same town ppetually to endure Provide allwey that the statute and ordenaunce afore made take his begynnng to stand in his strenght at Seint Thomas day the Appostell [21st December] Aforefeid. And soo from yere to yere for eu<sup>r</sup>more to endure as it is Aboven seide Allso it is ordeyned by William Peryn<sup>254</sup> maier & his Councell þ<sup>r</sup> monday next [7th January, 1454] Aft<sup>r</sup> Seint Edwardes day the kyng the xxxij<sup>th</sup> yere of kyng herry the sixt. That if eny ffuller put out eny cloth to borle he shall pay xx<sup>d</sup> to þ<sup>r</sup> town And xx<sup>d</sup> to þ<sup>r</sup> crafte. And if eny ffuller set eny jo'neymā Awerke but he haue geven his mait<sup>r</sup> due warnynge he shall pay xiid to þ<sup>r</sup> town & xiid to the crafte

[Folio 57b.]

## TEMPE JOHIS WALK MAIER

[IN THE TIME OF JOHN WALKER,<sup>255</sup> MAYOR.]

[Folio 58a.]

At a husting all Court holden in the Guyhald of the town of Norhampton the mondaie [17th February, 1516] next by fore the fest of saint mathie daie thapostell in the vij yer of kyng Henr the viij<sup>th</sup> it is enacted & establisched by John Walker of the forseid toun John Wattis John Saxby John Pvyn Thoms Wellis John Hilton Thoms Peny and Thoms Peny late maiers of the same. thorow aissen and consent of all the masters of fullers Crafte w<sup>t</sup>in the same toun that no man of the same fullers craftesett Willm Mall fuller awarke nor his Wife nor no man w<sup>r</sup> theym

<sup>254</sup> William Peryn, Perin, or Parrin was mayor of the town in 1443-4, 1453-4, and 1464-5.

<sup>255</sup> John Walker in 1516-7. This ordinance is written by a later hand.

neyther in myllyng nor inteyn teryng there as the forfeid Willm Dothe nor in burlyng nor in no wise Company w<sup>t</sup> the feid willm mall nor with his wyfe nor he nor his wyfe w<sup>t</sup> non of the occupacon in no tyme to come And if any of the masters of the feid occupacon be ou<sup>t</sup>takyn in any of the forfeid ordenaunce; then he or the so ou<sup>t</sup>takyn shall lose at eu<sup>y</sup> time xiijs iiijd the one halfe therof to the maier for the tyme beyng as Comyn Treſour to the toun & the other halfe to the pſite of the occupacon And if any Jo'neyman Worke w<sup>t</sup> the feid Willm mall And is ageyne the forfeid ordenaunce; that then the fame jo'neyman to leſe iiijd halfe therof to the maier & halfe to the Crafte in man<sup>r</sup> aforesaid and then that no master of that Crafte to occupie that Jo'nman afterward vpon the forfeid payne &c

[Folio 56b.]

ORDINACO FACTA P THOMAM  
BRAFELDE MAIOREM &  
SUU CONSILIU P ARTE  
ALLUTARIOX ANNO REGNI  
REGIS HENRICI V<sup>II</sup> XXXJ<sup>o</sup>

ORDINANCE MADE BY THOMAS  
BRAFELDE <sup>256</sup> MAYOR AND HIS  
COUNCIL FOR THE CRAFT OF  
CORDWAINERS IN THE 31ST  
YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING  
HENRY VI

Item ordinatum est qd nullus Artifex eiusdem Artis infra villam pdem de arte sua Shopam tenens deceſo teneat nec habeat aliquod Stallum in mercato dēe ville ad sotulares seu mercandas Arti pdēi ptinentes vendende s<sup>r</sup> qd eas tantū ad shopas suas vendant et vendere teneant<sup>r</sup>. Et si aliquis p<sup>r</sup>uiens eiusdem Artis ens aut futurus & effundus Aliquo surto seu latrocino detectus fuit & in eo reus comptus. Qd tunc Gardiani pdēe Artis p tempe existentes pmunitōem debitam facient magro dēe p<sup>r</sup>uentis cui p<sup>r</sup>uierit qd

Also it was ordained that no craftsman of the same craft holding within the town aforesaid a shop for his craft shall hereafter hold or have any stall in the market of the said town to sell shoes or wares belonging to the craft aforesaid but they must sell and be obliged to sell them only at their shops And if any journeyman of the same craft now being or about to be shall have been detected in any theft or robbery and in it found guilty that then the wardens of the aforesaid craft for the time being shall give due warning to the master of the said journeyman

<sup>256</sup> Thomas Brafeld, or Brafield, was mayor of the town in 1452-3.

ipm secum opari non pmittat sub pena sex solidos & octo denarios ad vrum ville pdce ac luinariu et torchiaz eiusdem Artis de magro l'uentis pdci leuand p maiorem dce ville qui p tempe su'it Et gardianos eiusdem Artis ad tempus existentes videtit si pdcm l'uentem sic reum comptu a l'utio suo post debitam pmunitonem sibi fact non euacau'it. vnde vna medietas pdce pene sic prouise ad vsum Cam'e ville pdce remanebit. Et Alt'a medietas eiusdem ad vsum luinarium et torchiaz Artis pdce tocens quo ciens Aliquis casus consimilis contig'it infutu'. Et si aliquis l'uiens aut oparius diurnus access'it ad villam in arte pdca opatus & pmansurus et in eadem arte p vnū mensem ibm opatus fuit qd tunc soluet duos denari luinariib et torchijs Artis pdce. Et si diutius expectau'it qd tunc soluet quoit quart'io Anni vnū denariu aut magister eius cui l'uerit p eo soluet sicut celi seruientes Artis pdce soluere solent et soluere conueunt dumodo infra villam pdcam pmant'it.

to whom he shall be in service that he do not permit him to work with him under a penalty of 6s 8d to the use of the town aforesaid and the lights and torches of the same art to be levied from the master of the said journeyman by the mayor of the said town for the time being and the wardens of the same craft at the time being namely if he shall not have discharged the aforesaid journeyman so found guilty from his service after due warning given to him whereof one moiety of the aforesaid penalty so provided shall remain to the use of the chamber of the town aforesaid and the other moiety of the same to the use of the lights and torches of the craft aforesaid as often as any similar case shall occur in the future And if any journeyman or workman by the day shall come to the town intending to work in the craft aforesaid and to stay and in the same craft shall have worked there for one month then he shall pay 2d to the lights and torches of the craft aforesaid And if he stay longer than then he shall pay in every quarter of the year id or his master whom he is serving shall pay for him as the other journeymen of the craft aforesaid are accustomed and have been accustomed to pay as long as he shall remain within the town aforesaid

[Folio 59b.]

[Folio 60a.]

Et sic de singulis touentibz eiusdem artis ad villam pdeam ad opande proionalito accessuris et venientibz infuturz. Et si aliquis artifex eiusdem Artis impossum infra villam pdeam Shopam tenens aliquod stallum in mercato dee ville contra formam pmislam posuerit ad sotulares seu mercandijas eiusdem artis vendende. qd tunc soluet viginti denari maiori ville pdee qui pro tempe fuit ad vsum came ville pdee Ac alios viginti denari ad vsum torchiaz et luinarnm artis pdee Gardiamus (sic) eiusdem artis p tempe existentibz indilate prooluende tociens quo ciens sic fecit seu eoz aliquis fecit in futurz Nouoit is nos platum maiorem ad intimam supplicacionem Willi Gybbes & Johis Marchall Gardianoz artis pdee ac alioz Artificum et magros pdeos in hac pte nobis facto pdeas ordinatones in omibz vt superscribunte et recitante ex puidia delibatione nona cum Aissenu Consilij nri Comburgensem nroz pdeos pre & consensu diligento inspexisse plegisse et examinasse ac eas p nobis & successoribz nris in quanto de iure possumus ratificare & confirmare Ac in Registro memorandoz ville pdee into ceteras diuz artim ordinationes registrari

And so from each several journeymen of the said craft that shall in person approach to work or come in the future And if any craftsman of the same craft hereafter within the town aforesaid who has a shop shall place any stall in the market of the said town contrary to the form above set forth to sell shoes and wares of the same craft that then he shall pay 2d to the mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being to the use of the chamber of the town aforesaid and other 2d to the use of the torches and lights of the craft aforesaid to the wardens of the same craft for the time being without delay to be paid as often as he or any one of them shall do so in future You must know that we the aforesaid mayor at the earnest supplication of Willaim Gybbes & John Marchall wardens of the craft aforesaid and of the other craftsmen and masters aforesaid in this respect made to us have diligently inspected read through and examined the aforesaid ordinances in all things as are above written and recited of our careful deliberation with the assent likewise and consent of our council of our fellow-burgesses aforesaid and them for ourselves and our successors in so far as we rightly can do so have ratified and confirmed and have caused by these presents to be registered verbatim in the Register of

verbatim fecisse p̄ p̄entes. In cuius  
rei testimoniū sigillum n̄ri maioratus  
officij in maius robur & recordum  
pmissoz p̄ nos p̄sentibz est  
appensum. Dat apud Norhampton  
viceſimo ſecundo die mentis No-  
uembris Anno regni Regis Henrici  
Sexti poſt conq̄m Tricetimo Primo  
Prouido ſemp qd ſupuifit om̄ pmis-  
ſoꝝ vt in aliquo ea non excedant  
nobis p̄fato maiori et successoribz  
n̄ris remanebit p̄ p̄entes &c

things to be remembered of the  
town aforesaid among other ordin-  
ances of divers crafts In testimony  
whereof the ſeal of our office of  
mayor for the greater confirma-  
tion and record of the premisses by  
us to these presents is appended  
Dated at Northampton on the  
22nd day of the month of Novem-  
ber [Wednesday, 22nd November,  
1452] in the 31st year of the  
reign of King Henry the Sixth  
after the Conquest Provided  
always that the ſuperviſion of  
all the premisses that they do not  
exceed in any way ſhall remain  
with us the aforesaid mayor and  
our successors by the presents  
etc

And vpon thees the kyng comaunderement at oure comoen  
Semblie holden in the chyrche of Seynt Gyle in the Town of Nor-  
hampton vpon frydaye the xxv daie of Maij the yere of the reigne of  
oure moſte souēign lord kyng Hen̄ the syxte xxxviiij<sup>th</sup> [1460] by  
the advise of William Austyn <sup>27</sup> Sqyuer thann Meyr with the aſſent  
of his xxiiij<sup>th</sup> Comburgeſes and all the Cōialte of the ſame haue or-  
deigned enſtabliſhed and aftermyd this aſte and ordeinaunce folowynge  
amonge other vſages and ſtatuteꝝ vied withinne the ſaid Town euer  
to endure &c

That is to ſaye That noo maner man ffranchefed of what degree  
or condicion ſo euer he be withinne this Town of Norhampton  
dwellyng take vpon hym to were eny maner Clothyng or Sygnes  
of eny lord squyer or any other perſone vnfranchefed excepte  
the kyng our ſouereign lord in payne of enprisonement by . xl  
dayes . And makyng fyne to the Chaumbre of the ſaide town . xl<sup>th</sup>  
at the leſte without eny redempcion . yf his goodeꝝ will atteyn thereto  
as often as eny is founden with ſuche defaulte . And the ſaide  
perſone ſo beyng in priſone there to remayne Aftir the ſaide . xl.  
daies tille haue paied the ſaide . xl<sup>th</sup>.

[Folio 6ob.]

no frān-  
chified ma-  
ſhall wear  
lyver of any  
other unfrā-  
nchified nor badge

<sup>27</sup> William Austyn or Austin was Mayor of the town in 1459-60, 1468-9, and 1476-7.

Sterlingis or founden sufficient suerte to paie . xl<sup>o</sup>. sterlings to the Chaumbre of the saide town. And if the saide psonne so beyng in prisone paie not the xl<sup>o</sup> sterlings nor can fynde noo suerte to paie thanne the same psonne to haue emprisonement of xij monethes &c

[Folio 61a.]

*no ma frant  
chched shall  
serve any other  
unfranchised*

Jt̄m that noo maner man ffaunchedes of the saide town in his owne psonne goo ryde ne sende ne make eny vnlawfull othes promys ne assuraunce to goo ryde ne to sende eny other psonne for theym with eny lorde knyght squyer or eny other psone without hit be by the kynge comaundement or by lycence of the maier for the tyme beyng or in assyстыng of the kynge officeres in the kynge service beyng for the tyme vppon the same peyne &c

*the maier that  
notlyth shall  
forfeitt*

[Folio 61b.]

Jt̄m that the Maier that nowe is of the saide town and every maire which shall succede hym for hys tyme whiche dothe not due execucion punnyshement vppon suche trespaſſours Ageyn theis the whiche ben the kynge comaundemente and oure ordenaunce And it be founden by his owne knowleche or by one or tweyn suche as haue ben in the office of maier of the same Town or ellys by due examynacion had by .xij. psones at the leste of the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> chieff Burgettes of the same. That the maier hadd verray knowleche of the saide offence; And allso of the trespaſſour that then the saide Maire to be charged of xl<sup>o</sup>. sterlyng for eu<sup>y</sup> suche trespaſſoure so offendyng to be paied to the Chaumbre of the saide Towne. Prouided allwey that this Acte and ordinaunce extende not to eny psonne or psones suche as the statute wyll excuse &c

#### ORDINACIO FACT PRO LEZ WEVERS

#### [ORDINANCE MADE FOR WEAVERS]

At the Comyn semble holden in the Chyrche of Seint Gile in the Towne of Norhampton the Wednesday [6th October, 1462] next affore the feste of Seint Dionisij the martir in the secounde yere of kyng Edward the iiiij<sup>th</sup> by the Ailent of the saide Maior and his xxiiij<sup>th</sup> Comburges and all the Comunalte of the saide Town ther beyng is Acordid and ppetually to endure

flyrste that is to iey that euery psonne that shall occupie and set vp the seide Weyverescrafte within the ffauncese of this town fro this day forwarde may be Abled be the Wardens of the seide

crafte that he be an Able and sufficient werkman in the seide Weiverscrafte. And Allsoo that he be Abled bye .ij. discrete plones comburgense<sup>z</sup> of the xxiiij<sup>u</sup> suche as shalbe cholyn be the maire for the tyme beyng and his councell. And the Wardenez of the seide Weivercrafte with hem that he be worthe of his owne propur goods c.<sup>z</sup>

[Folio 62a.]

And that than he that is so Abled be the seid burgense<sup>z</sup> and wardenes of the seide crafte to paie to the maire for the tyme beyng os comyng Trefoure for the town. if that he haue been prentise within this Town at the seide Weuerscrafte by the terme of .vj. yere at the leste trewly served and pformed. xl<sup>u</sup>. And to the susynance of the lyghtes and torches of the seide crafte .xl<sup>u</sup>. At his comyng Jnne and be gynnyng

And he that hath not ben prentise within this town At the seide crafte be the terme of vj yere at the leste trewly served and pformed and is Abled in the forme be fore rehersed to paye to the maire for the tyme beyng os comonn tresure to the Town .vj<sup>u</sup> viij<sup>u</sup>. And to the susynance of the lyghtes and torches of the seide crafte .vjs .viij d At his comyng Jnne and begynnyng .

And also that euy howholder of the seide crafte which nowe been & schull been that he pay his quatage to oure lady lighte aswele for hym selfe os for any man whiche shall wyrke with hym euy yere before the feste of Esterne or elles on the Estronmonday at the furtheite. And if any plone be behynde Any yere of the saide quarterage in parte or in all vnpaid astir the seide Elstruñ monday be the space of Amoneth that than he that is so founden fawty to be Resfreynyd of occupying of his lomes be the comaundement of the maire for the tyme beyng vntyll tyme that the crafte be agreyd and ffulli satisfied of suche quarterage so beyng be hynde. And that he that offendith in any of theis ordynaunce longyng to the seide crafte moste be called be fore the maire for his offence to paye to the officers of the toun all maner charges & costes suche os of oolde tyme han been dueed & customed or that he be delyued. And that this ordynaunce may be enacte at this tyme at the reuerence of god and in Wey of charyte. To the whiche enacte J William hayrose <sup>258</sup> maire of the toun before seide the seall of the office of the meyralte of the same town hafe setto &c .

[Folio 62b.]

[Folio 63a.]

<sup>258</sup> William Hayrose was member for the town of Northampton at the Parliaments held 33rd and 38th Henry VI.; but his name does not appear amongst the list of Mayors for the town.

ORDINACO FACT TEMPE  
WILLI PERYN MAIORIS ANNO RR  
EDWARDI QUARTI TERCIO

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE  
TIME OF WILLIAM PERYN <sup>1463</sup>  
MAYOR IN THE THIRD  
YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING  
EDWARD IV

Ad colloquum geniale tenet in  
ecclesia Sancti Egidij ville Norhampton  
die m<sup>er</sup>curij prox ante festum  
Sancti Dionisi matris Anno <sup>14</sup> Edwardi quarti post conquestum ter-  
cio. Per eximiam distreſionem  
Witti Peryn tunc Maioris Johis  
Harrys et Witt Slynde Battioꝝ  
et p avisamentum ac consilij  
xxiiij<sup>or</sup> eiusdem ville Combur-  
genſ cum vnanimi assensu tocius  
cōitatis ville p̄dēe Sequens or-  
dinaſo et Statutum in Dei oīni-  
potentis honorem. et ad Salutem  
Sp̄ualem et corpalem oīni Cristianoꝝ  
tam infra dictam villam coīmor-  
anc̄ qm ad pnoiaꝝ villam pue-  
nienc̄. Et p̄cipue in Sabbatho  
Conditoris n̄ vte eius genitricis  
marie oīniꝝ Ciūm S̄coꝝ celestis  
obiꝝ uando q̄tum lex Anglie et  
consuetudo ville in se exigunt et  
requirunt modo edil est et stabiliꝝ  
tempibꝝ in futurū duratuꝝ put in  
lingua n̄ra materna sequitur in  
hec verba

[Folio 63b.]

At a general conference holden  
in the church of S Giles in the  
town of Northampton on Wed-  
nesday [5th October, 1463] next  
before the feast of S Denys the  
martyr in the 3rd year of the  
reign of King Edward the Fourth  
after the Conquest By the ex-  
cellent discretion of William  
Peryn then mayor John Harrys  
and William Slynde Bailiffs by  
the advice and counsel of the 24  
fellow - burgesses of the same  
town with the unanimous consent  
of the commonalty of the town  
aforesaid The following ordi-  
nance and statute to the honour  
of Almighty God and to the  
welfare spiritual and corporal of  
all Christian men both dwelling  
within the said town and coming  
to the beforenamed town And  
especially in observing the les-  
tivals of our Founder of His  
Blessed Mother Mary and of all  
the holy citizens of heaven as far  
as the law of England and the  
custom of the town demand and  
require of them is now set forth  
and established to endure for the  
times to come as in our mother  
tongue follows in these words

<sup>1463</sup> William Peryn, Perin, or Parrin was Mayor of the town in 1443-4, 1452-3  
and 1464-5.

That no maner foreyn marchaunt ne Chapman as drapers merch  
ers hoesiers Jrmongers flaxmen Tanners no non other foreyn  
pfone of what crafte degré or condicōn so euer he be that bryngith  
eny marchaundise or ware to this toun to be solde . Savyng onely  
vitaile take vpon hym nor by coloure of ony other mene pfone  
for them to shewe eny such marchaundise or ware openly in this  
market ne p'vee ni none other place withinne this seide towne  
vpon any halydaye ne other dale in the Woke but if it be w'inne  
his Jnne to A marchaunte or chapman of this same towne . And to  
none other foreyn persone in peyne of forfaiture of all suche mar  
chaundise or ware to the profite of the chaumbr of this seide towne .  
As often as eny pfone so vsurpeth or taketh vpon hym into the  
Contrary to offende Accordyng to the goode sadde and laudable  
Customes of other Citees and Burghes of this Realme The Sat  
daye euy werke which is the market daye to this toune Assigned  
with the iiiij festes of oure lady . And the fest of saint Jame  
thappoistle [25th July] euy pfone of goode diiposicion liefully to come  
shewe and vtter suche os they or eny of them kan take vpon hym  
to vse and occupie to the pleasur of god . And theire owne pfite .

no foreyn  
merchant shew  
no wares but  
in his hū to  
merchantes of  
the town

[Folio 64a.]

Et quo ad debitam puniōem  
sive execucionem istius ordinācionis  
vel statuti plibati ad piens  
edit & constituti mandatum est  
decreto et determinatō ut istud  
statutum aut actum seriat in  
Regeistro Cuī ville pdēe int cēta  
Record ibm imppm Remansū  
Necnon huic transcripto Sigillum  
Cōe ville pdēe sit appensum in  
Record et testimoniū pmissōz &c

And to the due punishment  
or execution of this ordinance or  
statute before delivered it is  
now set forth and firmly com  
manded decreed and determined  
that that statute or act be written  
in the Register of the Court of  
the town aforesaid among the  
other records there to remain for  
ever Moreover to this transcript  
the common seal of the town  
aforesaid is appended for the  
record and testimony of the pre  
misses &c

ORDINACIO FACTE TEMPE THOME HUNT MAIORIS ANNO  
R R EDWARDI QUARTI QUARTO P ARTE FFULLONU

[ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF THOMAS HUNT<sup>200</sup> MAYOR  
IN THE 4TH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING EDWARD THE IV  
FOR THE CRAFT OF FULLERS]

Att the comon semble Holden in the Chirche of Seynt Giles . Thabbot in the Toun of Northampton the Weddennesday [10th October, 1464] in the morne next astyr the seide of Seynt Dinys the martir the iiiij<sup>th</sup> yere of kyng Edward the iiiij<sup>th</sup>. Carders Spynners Weuers ffullers by bylle of supplicacion to Thomas Hunt then Maire of the seide town his Comburgeuse and Comons of the same for the Weale of all thenhabitauntes of the seide towne. That is to sey the Carders Spynners Weuers & ffullers of this town praien you tendirly to consider that where the kyng oure gracious liege lord . And his lordis spuall & tempall by Auctorite of his high courte of Parliament . holden at Westmynstre . the xxix<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill thyrde yere of his noble Reigne [1463] have ordeyned fadd and straite statutres and ordeynaunceis to be executed vpon makynge of wollen cloth withine this his Realme Among the whiche statutes and ordinaunceis is laide and sett . vpon youre seide besechers too great charge that it is to theym importable withoute remadye be hadd in this behalfe folowing Wherfore like it youre good and great wydomys to graunte at this Comon Semble . That forasmuche as it is ordeyned by the kyng at his seide Courte of Parliament that every clothemaker shall gysse and paye to euy laborer of cloth makynge Redy money for theyr occupa<sup>n</sup>on . That fro this tyme forwarde if eny of the seide besechers . Whiche nowe be or shalbe . That is to sey Carders Spynners Weus and ffullers beyn dreven to take any other Ware or marchandise contrary to the statutes or actes in the seid pliament ordeyned and stablished . That then the Mayre for the tyme beyng to levy executee and take of euy clothmaker doyng the contrary suche recompence and satisfa<sup>c</sup>cion to the profeti of the compleyno<sup>r</sup> as in the saide Acte of Parliament is specified and ordeyned . And ovr that all yo<sup>r</sup> seide trewe besechers hartely prayen and desyren by youre seide wisdomes to confidre that mony and dyuse Clothes halfe clothes dosens halfe dosens . And

<sup>200</sup> Thomas Hunt was mayor of the town in 1465-6, 1473-4, and 1481-2; and one of the members of the parliament held 28th Henry VI.

other faggis of cloth is suspecte made of diuerse colours beyng hadd and putt to ffulling to diuerse psonys withinne this town. And fro the seide ffullers delyued withoute serche of the wardens of the seide ffullers crafte therto yerely sworne. That fro this tyme forwarde what pson of the seide ffullers Crafte within this toun dwellyng delyued or make to bee delyued eny maner of clothe if it be more or lesse to eny cloth maker withoute the same ffuller bryng the Awner of the seid cloth before the seid Wardens to prove it is owne pur good in peyne to paie to the town .x.s. And to the Crafte .x.s. by cause ther is so myche wolle and yerne falesely embased. And that then the seid wardens to certifie the Maire for the tyme beyng therof in the same payne. And that euy ffuller from this tyme forwarde be Enabeled in his warkmanship by the seide wardens. And allio by two burgeis of the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> chosen by thadvys of the Meyre <sup>felony</sup> for the tyme beyng. And the seide Wardens with him that he be worth of his owne pur good .x. Marc. Allio ys ony housholder of the seid crafte be noyed w<sup>t</sup> ony felonys or vntrouth to the value of suche a sume As he myghte be atteyned fore by the kynges lawes by surmytting or suggestion of ony pson p<sup>r</sup> man so noyed shall nott occupie the seide crafte within this Toun vntille he be lawfully excused or ellis sounde gylty. And if ony parson be so founde gyltie that then he to be punyshed accordyng to the kyng<sup>e</sup> lawies. By thadvys of the maire for the tyme beyng and his brethern. And what pson. And what pson disclaimdreh or disfaunth ony husholder of the same crafte of ony felonys falsenes or vntrouth as it is before seide that he shulde doo or vise. And he may not therol bryng forth his wittnesse or proves and therof be atteyned. That then he shall paye to the profett of the seide town and the seid Crafte .xx.s evenly to be departed As ofte tyme as ony too offendeth. Allio praying you to Remembre that it is greatly spoken comoned and merueled Aswell by lordis worshipfull whiche done shewe theire good lordshippis and fauoure to this town As by marchaunte Citeisyns and burgeis thurgh this Realme. That hit is sofered of clothmakers of this towne to putte theire werke in to the hondis of other psonys dwellyng owte of the fraunches of this seide town. And so doo see daily their pore neigborghis to be in great distresse and pouerte for lacke of occupacion like to be famylied or ellis falle in to greate mischiff. Wherefore in

[Folio 65b.]

[Folio 66a.]

eschewyng of great inconuenienc; both to god & to the worlde nowe at this tyme to lett ordeigne And stablisheth that if any clothmaker of this toun henßforwarde putt or doo to be putt ony werke owte of the iſraunches to ony pſone to wevyng or ffullynge but onely to thenhabytauntes of the ſame. That clothmaker which doth contrary in eny parte longyng or depending to the ſeide clothmakynge paye for euerie offence to the chaumbē of the ſeide town xij<sup>o</sup> iiiij<sup>d</sup>. conſideracion to be hadde. that ther is for

[Folio 66b.]

lake of occupacion in this be halfe before compleyned xvij ſkore placeſ and howles and tenementeſ diſtate and voide withinne this town which we truſt to in god shall enhabited bettur then eþy they were theiſ pmiſſes doone graunt and conſidered. As charite requyreth. Thife Actes and ordinaunceſ to take effecte and ſtande in ſtrenght Att the feſte of Criftemas nowe next folowing date of thiſ pſente euer to endure Withowte ony pſone wolle make ſufficiant pve w'inne A yere then next folowing Att A comon ſemblē that thiſ ſeide ordinaunceſ ſhulde cauſe or growe to ony Inconuenyence to the weall and pñſte of thenhabytaunteſ of thiſ ſeide Town. Thiſ Acte and ordinaunceſ to be putt and Recorded in the Regeſtre of the Courte in the Town of Northamptōn Amoung other ſtatutes and ordynaunceſ of the ſame towne. And the tranſcripte therof to be entealed. Aſwell with the Seall of the office of the Mairalte As with the Comon Seall of the ſame towne yeuen At Northamptōn Aforeſaid the Thurfday [20th December, 1464] in the vigell of Seynt Thomas thappostili the iiiij<sup>o</sup> yere of the Reigne of kyng Edward the iiiij<sup>o</sup> &c.

ORDINAÇO FACT TEMPE JÖHIS BUTLER MAIORIS ANNO R R  
EDWARDI IIIJ<sup>o</sup> V<sup>o</sup>

[ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF JOHN BUTLER <sup>21</sup> IN THE 5<sup>TH</sup>  
YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING EDWARD IV.]

[Folio 67a.]

This indenture witnessith Acouaunde made betwix all the Artificers of Wexchaundelers crafte w'inne the towne of Northamptōn dwellyng vpon the oon ptie. And the xxiiij<sup>o</sup> Comburgeis and all other of the Cominalte in the pariffe Chirche of Seynt Gyle of the ſeide towne in the Wednesday [16th October, 1465] next Attyr the feſte of Seynt Denys then ther at A comon ſemblē beyng

<sup>21</sup> John Butler or Buttler was Mayor of the towne in 1466-7.

SYN MANY AND diuise compleyntes vnfittynge and sedicious langage longe tyme hath beyn Amonge the Comon pepull Reignyng vpon the Artificers of Wexchaundelerscrafte within this town of Norht inhabitaunt & dwellyng for their deseivable makynge of Torchis & Torchette not durable ne sufficiantly made as it is oppynly proved be the brynnynge of hem but by the seide Artificers of the same Crafte disleyvable made not of sufficiaunt Stusse ne trewly wrought to the greate hurte rebuke & disclaundre of all the Artificers of the same crafte. And also great disclaundre both to the meire whiche is the Clerke of the Market withinne this town for the tyme beyng os vnto the wurship of town. Wherefore John Buttillor Maire of the Towne of Norhampton to the goode Avise & hole assent of his counsell to hym sworne with full comprountion & Aggrement of all the Artificers of the same crafte withinne this town beyng. Afore hym the monday [14th October, 1465] in the morne next Astur the fest of Seint Denys the m<sup>r</sup>tir in the yere of the reigne of kyng Edwardre the iiiij<sup>th</sup> Astur the conqueste the .v<sup>th</sup>. in the Gylde halle of the seide town. wyllyng with all his myght power and good entent to queme [satisfy] and please god our lorde most souayne. And to avoide & repele all man<sup>d</sup> compleyntes vnsit tyng & seducyous langage yminent & lyke to ryse And to reforme put away & distroye all suche disleyveable makynge of Torches & Torchette hereaftir infynitely to endure hath ordeyned prouyded and in this p<sup>s</sup>ent indentur included & spesified diuise ordinaunces And Articules to be obserued & kepte fynally among hem withoute menithyng or addycyon to be made but if it be by assent of the Maire for the tyme as hereafter is expressed and noted. The furste that all the maisters of the saide Crafte that nowe ben and here astir shull ben ely yere in the fest of all halous haue licence to Assemble and come to gydur withoute eny confedericies makynge chesyng the same day .ij. of the moste able men maisters of the same crafte into wardens and serchers of the same crafte for the yere ensuyng. whiche Wardens soo yerely chosen shulbe presented Afore the maire for the tyme beyng in Gylde hall vppon the monday next folowing Theire eleccyon then ther to make bodilye othe trewly to observe serche and odsee. All & syngler Torches and Torchette is from this tyme forwarde withinne the ffraunches of this towne made to be solde. And if thei syde any Torches or Torchette hereaft<sup>r</sup> made and not of sufficiant Stusse that Torche or Torchett to be

Wex chaundelers for evyl wordes emong them

[Folio 67b.]

[Folio 68a.]

forfett to the profet of the Town. And the maker therof to be put to Afyne by thadvise of the Maire for the tyme his counsell and wardens of the same crafte. Also pvided hit is that the seide wardens for the tyme beyng haue Aseall enprented to seale with all suche Torches & Torchette as the seide wardens & serchers shall prove suffycyantly made. And ou<sup>t</sup> that the Awner of the Torches or Torchette shall haue Ano<sup>þ</sup>e seall of his owne that he may sett vpon Torches or Torchette by syde the seal of the seide wardens in witnessyng of his owne dede Also prouyded it is that if ony Torches or Torchette be putte to

[Folio 68b.]

sale or solde withinne this town hereaft<sup>r</sup> and not sealed as it is before comprised that then the seide Torche or Torchet shalbe forfett to the Town and the maker or seller therof to be putt to Afyne of vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> oon halfe therof to the maire for the tyme beyng as tresoure of the town & the other halfe to the Comon weale of the seide craft euenly to be departed as often tymes os ony soo offendith. Also purveid hit is if ther be ony psone of the countre that makith ony Torche or Torchette & bryngeth hem to this town to be solde. That then the seide wardens & serchers have full power thoo Torches or Torchette to serche & ou<sup>t</sup>see And if they benot suffycyantly made as it is Afore rehersed that then the seide Torche or Torchet to be forfett to the comon profett of this town. Also ordeyned it is that non of the Artyficers of the same crafte withinne this town dwellyng from this tyme forward goo ne sende ony other in his name to make ony Torche or Torchet owte of the ffraunches of this town whiche torche or Torchet shalbe put to sale in this town or in ony other place thurgh the which ony deceyte or hurte myght growe to ony of thenhabitauntes of the seide towne or ony other of the kyngis liege peple in peyn of vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>. the oon halfe therof to be paied to the town And the other halfe to the craft os ofte as ony soo offendith Also purveid it is that no foreyn psone what so eu<sup>r</sup>e he be henforward take vpon hym withinne the ffraunches of this town to make ony suche torche or torchette vndre the proteccyon or tuycion of ony of thenhabitauntes of this town tille he surste gifte warnyng to the seide wardens for the tyme beyng. Thoo Torches or Torchette to serche and ou<sup>t</sup>see as it is Above seide in peyn of vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> to be paied the oon halfe therof to the profet of the toun The other halfe to the profet of the seide crafte euenly to be deped

[Folio 69a.]

os often os ony soo offendith w'oute ony m<sup>9</sup>cy in this behalfe hadd. Also ordeyned it is that the seide wardens & serchers for the tyme beyng shall Attende & be redy oþther the toon or both or ellys sum oþ trusty body by the Assignment of the same wardens of the same occupacion for the tyme vpon resonable warnyng hadd by the seide torche maker to execute & doo all that in these ordynaunce is comprised and made vpon peyn of viij<sup>4</sup> to be paied to the profet of this toun the oon halfe thereof. And the other halfe to the crafte evenly to be depted os often tyme os ony soo offendith

[Folio 69b.]

ORDINAÇO FACT TEMPE WILLI  
AUSTYN MAIORIS PE PISTENAR  
ANNO RRE EDWARDI QUARTI  
SEPTIMO

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE  
TIME OF WILLIAM AUSTYN <sup>203</sup>  
MAYOR FOR FISHMONGERS IN  
SEVENTH YEAR OF THE  
REIGN OF KING EDWARD THE  
FOURTH.

AD colloquum gen<sup>9</sup>ale ten<sup>6</sup> in  
Ecclia poch S<sup>e</sup>i Egidij ville Nor-  
hampton die mercurij p<sup>t</sup> ante s<sup>m</sup>n  
S<sup>e</sup>i Dionisij m<sup>r</sup>is Anno regni Regis  
Edwardi quarti post conquestum  
Septimo Per exemplam discretionem  
Willi Austeyn nunc d<sup>c</sup>e ville  
maioris Robti Mose & Johnis  
Spristowe i<sup>m</sup> Battioz & pAviamen-  
tū Ac consiliū xxiiij<sup>or</sup> Combur-  
gensium vnanimi Assentū & con-  
censu tocius cōitatis ville p<sup>t</sup>notate  
Sequens ordinaçō & Statutum in  
dei patris om̄ipotentis honorem &  
ad salutem spūalem & corpalem  
om̄i Cristianoz tam infra dēam  
villam cōmovanc qm ad eandm  
villam pueniment<sup>l</sup> qntum

At a general conference held  
in the parish church of St Giles  
in the town of Northampton on  
Wednesday [7th October, 1467]  
next before the feast of S<sup>e</sup>i Denys  
the Martyr in the seventh year  
of the reign of King Edward the  
Fourth after the Conquest by the  
excellent discretion of William  
Austeyn then mayor of the said  
town Robert Mose and John Spris-  
towe Bailiffs there and by the  
advice and counsel of 24 burgesses  
with the unanimous assent and  
consent of the whole commonalty  
of the town before mentioned  
The following ordinance and  
statute to the honour of God the  
Father Almighty and to the health  
spiritual and corporal of all Chris-  
tian men as well dwelling within  
the said town as resorting to the

[Folio 70a.]

<sup>203</sup> William Austyn, or Austin, was mayor of the town in 1459-60, 1468-9, and 1476-7.

lex Anglie & consuetudo ville in  
se exigunt & requirunt modo  
edit et & stabilitum temporib;  
infuturis duratu*r* put in lingua  
matna Sequit*r* inhec Verba

same town as far as the law of  
England and the custom of the  
town allow and require was lately  
published and established to last  
for future times as follows in our  
mother tongue in these words

The kynges right and Rente with the Appropurtees of his  
trewe liege people to the Courte of this Towne Sewters Aswell  
Resident as non Resident hertely defyrynd and prayen your good  
Maisterhippes and good Willis in gen<sup>all</sup> in this by halte to be  
shewed . That for assomuch as of olde tyme hit hath ben vied  
and Accustomed that all maner psones sellyng eny maner see-  
fishe Aswell stokefish as eny other syfishe owe to kepe her stallis  
and standing withinne the circuyte and place there Accustomed  
w<sup>i</sup>nne this feide town Accordyng to other Citees Townes and  
Burghes within the Realme . Howe be it certeyn psones for their  
ppur and singler Avayle hath taken vpon hem to occupie and sell  
suche man<sup>r</sup> seefyfishe owte of the feide place Assigned and Accu-  
tomed of tyme withowte mynde . And also the feide psones doon  
occupie and vien to shewe all maner of suche seefyfishe vpon  
bakstalles whiche be not Rented to the kyng our sou<sup>r</sup>ayne Lorde  
in piudice of the feide kyngis Rent and ditherytyng his true liege  
people . By youre great Widsomys and iad Reasonns at this tyme  
to pvyde ordeigne and stablishe That no pson fro thys tyme forwarde  
take vpon them to sell any man<sup>r</sup> seefyfishe owte of the leide  
place of olde tyme accustomed ne to shewe ony suche syfishe  
vtwarde nor occupie ony suche bakstalle in peyn of forfettur  
of all suche syfishe too shewed in the contrarie the one halfe  
therof to the plite of this towne And the other halfe to the  
sustynaunce of the lightes in the high pace afore the Rode in the  
Chirche of all halowes whiche hath beyn longe tyme mayntened  
by the psones sellyng suche maner syfishe And nowe they w<sup>i</sup>  
drawe theyre devocyon therof by cause that certeyn psones doo  
stande owte of the Circuite and place of olde tyme accustomed And  
occupyen and vien suche bakstalles in piudice of the kyng as if  
it Afore comprised . Provided Allwey that be it liefull to all and  
singler psones to take availe and well recorse the terme yere  
eu<sup>r</sup>y saturday in lenton which is the m<sup>r</sup>kett Assigned and non  
other day in the yere but they kepe ther stallis which be rented  
of the kyng and of dyu<sup>r</sup>le other mennys in the m<sup>r</sup>kett place

see fishe to be  
sold at stallis  
rentyd to the  
kyng & not  
ells where

[Folio 7ob.]

Accostomed for eu<sup>9</sup> in peyn of eu<sup>9</sup>y psonē or psonēs occupying contrary to this p̄sent Acte to lese vj<sup>9</sup> viij<sup>4</sup> so that thei Accorde w<sup>t</sup> the bailiff<sup>3</sup> for the tyme beyng whiche ben feoffermours to the kyng our sou<sup>9</sup>ayne lorde withinne this town

[Folio 71a.]

Et quo ad debit<sup>l</sup> excul<sup>l</sup> siue  
punctionem istius ordinacis vel  
statuti p̄libati ad p̄sens edit<sup>9</sup> &  
stabilit<sup>l</sup> mandatū est decretum et  
determinatū vt istud statutū aut  
Actum scribatur in Registro  
Curie ville Norhampton in cēla  
Recordē ibm imppū Remansūf  
&c

And for the due execution or  
punishment of that ordinance or  
statute before mentioned pub-  
lished for the present time and  
established it was commanded  
decreed and determined that that  
statute or act be written in the  
register of the Court of the town  
of Northampton there for ever to  
remain among the other records &c

**ORDINAĀO FACTĀ P̄ ART  
PISTOR HOC ANNO**

AD husteng<sup>9</sup> ten<sup>9</sup> in Guyhald  
ville Norht die lune p̄ ante fm  
Sci Hugonis Epi Anno regni  
Regis Edwardi quarti septimo  
p̄ exempliam discretionē Witti Austeyn  
tunc dēcē ville maioris Roþti  
mose & Johis Spristowe ibm battioȝ  
et p̄ auisāment<sup>l</sup> ac confiliū Witti  
Paryn Thome Brafeld Thome  
Hunt Johis Butteler et Johis  
Hancok nup dēcē ville maios ac  
Thome Saxby Johis Asshurne  
Siōnis Balle Johis Clerke & Johis  
Harrys sen<sup>9</sup> baker et qu<sup>9</sup>m pluri-  
bȝ de xxiiij<sup>or</sup> burgen ad tunc ibm  
couocaȝ cum vnanimi assensu &

**ORDINANCE MADE FOR THE  
CRAFT OF BAKERS THIS YEAR**

At a court of hustings held in  
the Guildhall of the town of Nor-  
thampton on Monday [16th Nov-  
ember, 1467] next before the feast  
of St Hugh the Bishop in the  
seventh year of the reign of King  
Edward the Fourth by the ex-  
cellent discretion of William  
Austeyn<sup>203</sup> then Mayor of the said  
town Robert Mose and John  
Sristowe Bailiffs there and by  
the advice and assent of William  
Paryn Thomas Brafeld Thomas  
Hunt John Butteler and John  
Hancok lately Mayors of the  
said town and Thomas Saxby  
John Asshurne Simon Balle John  
Clerke and John Harris Senior  
baker and several of the 24 bur-  
gesses then and there summoned  
with the unanimous assent and

[Folio 71b.]

<sup>203</sup> William Austyn, or Austin, was mayor of the town in 1459-60, 1468-9, and 1476-7.

concensu om̄ artificu artis pisto  
ville predicte Sequens ordinacō & statutum in dei om̄i-  
potentis honorem Acciam ad  
comodum & oportunitatem pistoz  
infra villam North vſitāl &  
deinceps exercēdm quatum lex  
Anglie & cosuetudo ville in  
se exigunt & requirunt modo  
edit̄ est & stabiliſ temporibz  
infuturis duratuſ put lingua mat̄na  
sequit̄ in hec verba

consent of all workers of the craft  
of bakers of the town aforesaid  
The following ordinance and  
statute to the honour of God Al-  
mighty and also for the advantage  
and convenience of the bakers  
within the town of Northampton  
practising or hereafter to practise  
the craft as far as the law of Eng-  
land and the custom of the town  
allow and require was lately pub-  
lished and established to last for  
future times as follows in our  
mother tongue in these words

bakers carrying  
ot bred to places  
in the contrey  
wher yt canot  
be wayed

[Folio 72a.]

That for alomyche as certeyn & diuerſe piones of the seide  
bakers bifore this tyme hath sente and late karye brede of all  
man⁹ greyne owte of the ffraunches of this seide Towne into  
diuerſe townſheppis of the contre whiche brede hath bien often  
spoken of and compleyned that it hath or shulde be made  
deceitfully and non sufficiaunt weight to an vniuſall hurte of the  
kinge liege people Caſyng great Rumor and noyſe to be ſpoken  
to the dishonure of the maire for the tyme beyng and oppyn di-  
claundre of the ſame town. In eſchewyng wheroſ to late ordeyne  
for this tyme forward that no baker of this town nother ſende  
ne late karie by any maner meane or ſotiltie any maner of brede  
owte of the ffraunches of this town where dewe ferche &  
correcyon may be done at all tymes in peyne of viij viij the  
one halfe thereof to the profit to the Chaumbre of this Towne.  
And the other halfe to the ſuſtynaunce of the lyghtes and torches  
of the ſame craſte As often as ony ſo offendyth

Et quo ad debit̄ punitionem  
ſue executionem iſtius ordinatōnis  
& statuti plibat ad presens edil̄  
& stabulitum mandatū est & de-  
crel̄ vt iſtud statutum aut actum  
ſcribat̄ in Registro curie ville  
pde inter cēla Recorde impm  
ibm Remansur &c

And for the due punishment  
or execution of that ordinance  
and statute before mentioned  
published for the present time  
and established it was com-  
manded and decreed that that  
statute or act be written in the  
register of the court of the town  
aforesaid there to remain for  
ever among the other records &c

ORDINACIO FACT P COES  
JANTACULOS DIERZ DINCIS ANTE  
CELEBRACOEM SUMME MISSE  
HOC ANNO TEMPE WILLI  
AUSTEN MAIOR ANNO RR  
EDWARDI QUARTI SEPTIMJ

ORDINANCE MADE FOR  
COMMON BREAKFASTS ON  
SUNDAYS BEFORE THE  
CELEBRATION OF HIGH MASS  
THIS YEAR IN THE TIME OF  
WILLIAM AUSTEN<sup>264</sup> MAYOR IN  
THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE  
REIGN OF KING EDWARD THE  
FOURTH

Ad colloquum infra scriptum  
ordinatum & stabili exstat put  
subsequentia paty in Anglicis  
verbis

At a conference below written  
it is ordained and established as  
subsequently appears in English

That no maner of pfone from this tyme forwarde whiche beyn  
or hereast shall beyn withinne this towne and ffraunches of Nor-  
hampton inhabitaunt dwellyng or Resident thall dyght ordeyne or  
make ony maner of vitall in her howses or places to sell nor kepe  
occupie ne vse any ale sellyng to any maner of pfone or pfones  
vpon the Sondayes vntille the high messe be done and holy brede  
delte in theire pish Chyrche Where ony suche pfone is abydyng  
dwellyng or Refydent vnder the payne to paye euyche pfone  
doyng the contrary at euy tyme that any of hem be lawfully  
proved defaultyng here Inne vj<sup>4</sup> viij<sup>4</sup> to be levied and paied of  
euyche transigreisour in this bihalse vnto the profet of this Towne  
withoute ony mercy or faver. Provided alwey that it be lefull to  
all maner pfones to dight or deyne and make mete to suche  
pfones as bien travellyng men or women aswell of this Towne  
as of the Cuntrie passyng vpon her Jorneis and nedis or elles  
ony pfone efected or holden with sekenes so that it be nott  
vnder subtilite fraude coloure or colysion of any parte of this  
ordinaunce or Acte vnder the seide peyne of vj<sup>4</sup> viij<sup>4</sup> to be leved  
and paid of ony pson so lawfully proved with ony suche subtelite  
fraude coloure or colysion at euy tyme soo offendyng withoute  
fauer or mercy in any wise to be hadde. This Acte and or-  
dinaunce to be Regestred and writen in the Regestre in the toun  
of Norhampton amonqe other actes and ordinaunce there to  
remayne in strenght and effecte of thise pmities imppetuall ffurther-

for brekefast  
after the masse

[Folio 73b.]

[Folio 73a.]

<sup>264</sup> William Austen, Austyn or Austin, was mayor of the town in 1459-60, 1468-9,  
and 1476-7.

more it is enacted and prouyded and ordained from this tyme forwarde that noo maner of piane or piones As of the crafte of Cookys w'in this Town inhabitaunt or dwellyng shallnot dyght ordeynng or make peyes or any other vyttaill vppon the Sonday in eny maner Wyse but oon assygned Allonly euy sonday of the feide Crafte to make & ordeyn pyes and other Vitaile in Payne to paye to the meir for the tyme beyng vj<sup>a</sup> As often as eny ben offendyn in pniſſis

[Folio 73b.] ORDINACO FACT̄ TEMPE WILLI FFLOURE MAIORIS ANNO RR HENRICI SEPTIJ QUINTO

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF WILLIAM FLOURE<sup>265</sup> MAYOR IN THE FIFTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING HENRY THE SEVENTH

MEMORANDUM qd die lune p̄ ante ffm Purificatiōis bie Marie Virgīs Anno regni Regis Henrici septij post conq̄m quinto Ad husteng tent in Guyhald ville North p discretionem & consiliu Wittifloure tunc ibm maioris Riči Emson Recordatoris ibm Thome Hunt Johis Clerke Simonis Brafelde Witti Milly Witti Lynde Henrici Humfrey & Thome Derby Ac Alioꝝ qm̄ plurimoꝝ de virginti quatur comburgensibꝝ suis. Acetiam comodum & oportunitatem infra

MEMORANDUM that on Monday [1st February, 1490] next before the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the fifth year of the reign of King Henry the Seventh after the Conquest At a court of hustings held in the Guildhall of the town of Northampton by the discretion and counsel of William Floure then mayor there Richard Emson<sup>266</sup> recorder there Thomas Hunt John Clerke Simon Brafelde William Milly William Lynde Henry Humfrey and Thomas Derby and many others of the twenty-four burgesses and also for the advantage and convenience within

<sup>265</sup> William Floure, or Flower, was mayor of the town in 1490-1.

<sup>266</sup> Richard Emson, or Empson, was said to have been the son of a poor sieve maker at Towcester. He was a member of parliament for Northamptonshire; and in 1491 was elected speaker of the House of Commons; he was knighted, and in 1504 became Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; he was also appointed recorder of Northampton and Coventry. Sir Richard Empson assisted Edmund Dudley in raising money for King Henry VII, by enforcing obsolete laws, and imposing exorbitant fines. Upon the King's death, both Empson and Dudley were committed to the Tower. Empson was tried at Northampton, 3rd October, 1509, and was beheaded with Dudley on Tower Hill in August, 1510.

villam Norht usitat<sup>9</sup> & deinceps  
ex<sup>2</sup>cende qu<sup>4</sup>tum lex Anglie & consuetudo ville in se exigunt & re-  
quirunt modo edit<sup>9</sup> est & habilit<sup>9</sup>  
temporib<sup>y</sup> futuris duratuf put in  
lingua materna sequit<sup>9</sup> in hec  
verba

the town of Northampton practised  
and hereafter to be practised  
as far as the law of England and  
the custom of the town allow and  
require was lately published and  
established to last for future times  
as follows in our mother tongue  
in these words

Syn that many and diuise vnfitting langage and seducious  
and myse rule therof and vngodly goūaunce hath longe tyme  
reigned in the Borough and toun of Norhampton Amonge then-  
habytaunte; ther and dwellers of the same And for A ppetuall peace to  
be hadde Wee haue consyderid and ordered . ffirst and princypally  
pleasith god establishith parsite rest and tranquylite noreshith and  
encrestis loue & charite emonge vs . The vnlawfull weale allwey  
inhauncyng & flouryng causith plente and habundaunce and lawes  
to haue their due courses . Justice be indyfierently mynyfred and  
executed by theise be halues . And by the contrarie wey and vse  
therof enuen comocyon stryves debates pouertye & misterie  
& many other inconuenyence The pell and daungers whereof  
must of reason be Arected and leide to the charges of thoo [Polo 74a.]  
piones hauyng Rule and Auctorite where eny mygoūaunce be  
vied or haunted Be hit provided allwey for the more syrmall In plaine.  
graunt to be established of this p̄sent statute and ordynaunce  
from this tyme and the tyme to come . That no man<sup>e</sup> of pione  
or piones what degree or condyon soo eu<sup>9</sup> he bee That is  
ffraunchised and thereto sworne to the lybtees ffredomes and  
vſages of the forseid toun before the meire for the tyme beyng .  
but that he w<sup>t</sup> all his power and diligens to be Justisiable to  
the meire and baillifys of this toun that now bee hath bee &  
shalbe The ffredomes and vſages of the feide toun shall mayntene  
to his power as more pleynly to hym shalbe shewed at the  
makyng of his othe . That noo man<sup>e</sup> of pione or piones of what-  
someu<sup>9</sup> degré or condycyon that eu<sup>9</sup> he bee That is A ffraunchised  
man dwellyng or restyant within this feide toun and Borowe .  
That hath in eny man<sup>9</sup> wise eny seducyouse Royotouise &  
Maliciouse langage by the meire or by eny of theym that hath  
byn meyres or by eny other of the xxiiij<sup>u</sup>. comburgess<sup>z</sup> of the  
forfeide toun. In scalaundryng or appeyryng theire good name and  
fame or eny of them in eny man<sup>9</sup> of vntrowth or eny other

for Raylyng  
upon the mayor  
or any of the  
xxiiij

Ryotouse & seduceyouse langage In hynderyng appeyryng or dispisonyng eny of them by suffycyant proves made therof byfore the meire and his counsell for the tyme beyng . That then that p̄one or p̄ones that so noysith scaundryth or defamyth eny of theym Above rehersed And therin be founden defectyve & gylty before the meire & his counsell That then the forseid p̄one or p̄ones pay to the meyre for the tyme beyng As comyn Tresoure of the forseide toun xl<sup>l</sup> yif that he bee of Abylytee and power to pay the feide xl<sup>l</sup> . Furthermore yif the feide p̄one or p̄ones be not Able ne of power for to pay the feide xl<sup>l</sup> . That then they remayne in prisoun there xx<sup>u</sup> dayes by the discrelyon of the meire and his counsell at their pleasur disponable This Acte & ordynaunce to be Affermyd and establisshid in the Regesture emongeste other ther to Remayne Jnsynytly to endure

[Folio 74b.]

[Folio 75a.]

INCIPIT IUDICIŪ PILLOR &  
TUMBERELLHERE BEGINS THE JUDGEMENT  
OF THE PILLORY AND  
TUMBREL

SI PISTOR conuictus fuit vel brasiatrīx conuict<sup>9</sup> qd istas assīas subsequent<sup>9</sup> non S<sup>9</sup> uau<sup>9</sup> int. primo. Scđo & tertio Am<sup>9</sup>ciet<sup>r</sup> sēdmā quantitatē delicti si non <sup>267</sup> g<sup>9</sup>uit deliquerint plures & castigari noluerint paciant<sup>r</sup> iudiciū corporis S. pistor collistrigiu brasiatrīx trobūchetū vel castigatoriū . Primo sex legales hoies iurent fideli<sup>9</sup> collig<sup>e</sup> omnes mensuras ville . videlet buselles di buselles galloū potell quart<sup>9</sup> tam de tabnis q<sup>9</sup>m de alijis . vlnas & pondera . S. libras tronas Ac minora pondera villaz p que ponderant<sup>r</sup> panes in Cuř. scitt de

IF A BAKER or a maltster shall have been convicted that they have not kept these following assizes for the first second and third time let him be fined according to the amount of the fault if they have not offended seriously more often and refuse to be corrected <sup>268</sup> let them suffer corporal punishment that is to say a baker the pillory the maltster the ducking stool or tumbrel In the first place six liege men must swear faithfully to collect all the measures of the town namely bushels half-bushels gallons pottles and quarts as well from the taverns as other places ells and weights that is to say

<sup>267</sup> This non appears to be redundant here.<sup>268</sup> Or "to amend their ways after being fined."

quot gen<sup>e</sup> panis vnu panem. Et sup mensu<sup>r</sup> vlnas & pondera & etiam sup singlos panes scribant nōia eoz distincte quo<sup>r</sup> sint et mensu<sup>r</sup> vni colligant. Postea iurent. xij . legales hōies fidelit<sup>r</sup> responder ad int<sup>ro</sup>gata ab eis ex pte Rs querat<sup>r</sup> ab eis que <sup>289</sup> scripta sunt & si qua sint secreta pponant secrete & puatim respondent. Et mandet<sup>r</sup> ballis qd heant corpora oñu pisto<sup>r</sup> & brasiatric vna cum mensu<sup>r</sup> & omib<sup>r</sup> Alijs sup<sup>d</sup>ictis . Primo querat<sup>r</sup> de venditione frumenti videtur quomodo vendebat<sup>r</sup> vlt<sup>r</sup> die m<sup>c</sup>cati quart<sup>r</sup> melioris frumenti & quomodo quart<sup>r</sup> minoris frumenti et quomodo quart<sup>r</sup> t<sup>r</sup>tij p<sup>r</sup>tij & quomodo quart<sup>r</sup> ordei & Aueaz Postea quomodo respondeant panes pisto<sup>r</sup> in Cu<sup>r</sup> sua videtur wastelli & Alij

the pounds trons and smaller weights of the towns by which loaves are weighed in the court that is to say one loaf of every kind of bread And upon the measures ells and weights and also upon the different loaves must be written distinctly the names of the persons whose they are and they must tie the measures together Afterwards 12 liege men must swear faithfully to answer to what is asked of them on behalf of the king enquiry must be made of those names that are written marks must be secret they must determine secretly and make answer in private And charge must be given to the bailiffs that they have the bodies of all the bakers and maltsters together with the measures and all other things named above First enquiry must be made about the sale of corn namely for how much there was sold on the last market day a quarter of better corn and for how much a quarter of second best corn and for how much a quarter of the third value and for how much a quarter of barley and oats Afterwards they must enquire how the loaves of the bakers correspond in court namely wastels and other loaves whether according to the sale of the better value or of the

[Folio 75b.]

<sup>289</sup> This is somewhat obscure.

panes Sēdm̄ venditoem melioris  
pt̄ aut minoris Aut t̄tij pt̄ij Itm̄  
p quanto incremento in quartis  
frumenti venditōe debeat pistoꝝ  
mutare assīam eam & pondus  
panis sui . Jt̄n quantū debeat pon-  
derare wastell de q̄ & ōnes Alij  
panes Sēdm̄ venditoem quartij  
frumenti quam p̄sentant . Itm̄ p  
quanto defēu ponderis panis de  
q̄ pistor debeat Am̄ciari vel  
subire iudicm̄ pilloꝝ Sēdm̄ con-  
suetudinem Cuꝝ sue Jt̄n si aliquis  
senescallus vel ballis p aliqua in-  
cede remisit it iudicm̄ pillorie vel  
tumbrell adiudicatū vel de iure  
adiudicande Jt̄n si heat' pilloria  
in villa debite forcitudinis Sēdm̄  
quod ptinet ad libertatem m̄cati  
qua vti possit si necesse fu'it et  
sine piculo corporis hōis vel  
mulieris . Postea querat' de Assīis  
vendiōe vini post recessum Justic  
itin'ant' vel eoꝝ qui fuerunt vlt'  
in officio m̄cati in villa videit de  
nōibꝫ vinetaꝝ et p quanto vendi-  
derunt Sextaꝝ vini Jt̄n si Aliquod  
vinū sit in villa corruptū & quod  
corpori hōis non est sanū De assīis  
s'uis in Cuꝝ vill quat sit & si ob-  
seruet' sin autem que brafiatrices  
vendiderunt cont' assīas & nōia

[Folio 76a.]

second best or of the third value  
Also for what increase in the  
quarter in the sale of corn the  
baker ought to change that  
assize and the weight of his loaf  
Also how much the wastel loaf  
ought to weigh and all other  
loaves according to the selling  
price of a quarter of corn which  
they present Also for what de-  
ficiency of weight of a loaf a  
baker ought to be fined or to  
undergo judgement of the pillory  
according to the custom of their  
court And also if any steward  
or bailiff for any bribe shall have  
remitted the judgement of the  
pillory or tumbrel adjudged or  
rightly to be adjudged Also if  
there be a pillory in the town of  
suitable strength according to  
what belongs to the liberty of  
the market which can be used  
if necessary and without danger  
to the body of man or woman  
Afterwards enquiry must be  
made about the assizes in the  
sale of wine after the departure  
of the justices itinerant or of  
those who last were in office of  
the market in the town namely  
about the names of the vintners  
and for what price they sold a pint  
of wine Also if there be in the  
town any wine spoiled or that is  
not wholesome for a man's body  
Also about the assize of ale in  
the court of the town what it is  
and if it be observed but if what  
the maltsters sold was contrary

eoꝝ distincte p̄fentent & p̄ quolt delicto Am̄ciari debent vel pati iudm̄ tumbrell si contra assisam vendiderunt Jtm̄ si qui sint in villa qui p̄ vnam mensuram emunt & p̄ aliam vendunt Jtm̄ si quis vtat' falsis vlnis vel falsis pōderibꝫ aut mensuris Jtm̄ si qui carnifices vendunt carnes sussimatas vel de morte morina Jtm̄ de Cocis si qui decoquunt carnes vel pisces in pane vel aqua vel alio modo non sanas humano corpori vel postq;m talia tenuerunt Jta qd debitam naturam amiserunt eas recalesciant & vēdunt Jtm̄ de florestallaꝫ qui ante debitam horam in villa statutam Aliiquid emunt cont' statut' ville & mercati vel qui exeant villam rebꝫ venalibꝫ obuianteꝫ & ext' villam emant vel in villa ea carnes vendant ad regratores q\*m fac'ent hij qui eas asportabunt si mercato suulent Jtm̄ quando quat'ij ordei vendit' p̄ ij' vj' tunc vij lagen p̄ ij' quando pro iij' tunc tres lagene ad j' quando p̄ iij' vj' tunc v lagen p̄ ij' sic deinceps crescat' & ad minuet' p̄ sex denarios Et sciend est qd pistor inueniat' panis quad-

to the assize they must both distinctly present their names and for what offence they ought to be fined or suffer judgement of the tumbrel if they have sold contrary to the assize Also if there be any in the town who buy by one measure and sell by another Also if any man use false ells or false weights of measures Also if any butchers sell meat measled or that died of cattle plague Also about cooks if any boil down meat or fishes in bread or water or any other way not wholesome for a man's body or after they have kept such things so long that they have lost their due nature if they warm them up again and sell them Also about forestallers who before the statutory hour in the town buy anything contrary to the statutes of the town and market or who go out of the town to meet goods for sale and buy them outside the town or sell meat in the town to regraters at a higher price than they would have done who were bringing them in if they had been in the market Also when a quarter of barley is sold for 2s 6d then 7 gallons are to be sold for 2d when for 3s then 3 gallons for 1d when for 3s 6d then 5 gallons for 2d and so continually let it be increased and diminished for every sixpence And it must be known that if a baker be found

rantis in descū ponderis ij<sup>o</sup> vj<sup>o</sup> & infra am<sup>o</sup>ciet<sup>o</sup> stet si num<sup>o</sup>um illum excedat subeat iudicīn pilloř & non remittat<sup>o</sup> iudic delinquenti p auro nec Argento et quitt<sup>o</sup> pistor heat pprīn signū sup quodlit genus panū suoř &c Pilloria siue collustrīn & tumbrellum continue habeant<sup>o</sup> debite fortitudinis . Jta qd delinquentī exequi possit iudicīn sine corpoř piclo Tolnetum ad molendinū Sēdīn consuetudinem Angl & Sēdīn fortitudinem cursus aque capiat<sup>o</sup> ad xx g'nū vel ad xxiiij granū Et mensura p quam tolnetū capi debeat sit concordans cum mensura dñi Regis & capiat<sup>o</sup> tolnetū p rasum & non cum cumulu Et firmarij inveniant molendinarijs necessaria ita qd nich capiant nisi debitū tolnetum et si aliter faciunt grauit<sup>o</sup> am<sup>o</sup>cietur

Aūisa vini Sēdīn ass dñi regis obseruet<sup>o</sup> & sextarn ad xijd Et si tabnarius ass excedat p maiorem & battios ceſſam oſtiū tabna claudat<sup>o</sup> & non pmittař vinū

deficient in weight a farthing a loaf when corn is at 2s 6d and less let him be fined if he exceed that amount let him undergo judgement at the pillory and the judgement may not be remitted to the delinquent for gold or silver And every baker must have his proper mark upon every sort of his loaves &c The pillory or collustringium and the tumbrel must be kept continually of due strength so that the judgement of delinquents can be carried out without danger to their bodies Toll at the mill must be taken according to the custom of England and according to the strength of the watercourse<sup>70</sup> at 20 grain or 24 grain And the measure by which the toll ought to be taken must agree with the measure of our lord the King and the toll must be taken scraped flat and not heaped And the farmers must find what is necessary for the millers so that they take nothing but the toll due and if they do otherwise let them be heavily fined

The assize of wine must be kept according to the assizes of our lord the King and a pint for 12d And if the innkeeper exceed the assize granted by the mayor and bailiffs let the door of the inn be shut and he not permitted to sell

<sup>70</sup> Perhaps meaning a twentieth or twenty-fourth part of the corn sent to be ground.

Donec a dño rege vel eius  
o licentiam optimuerit  
nisi scdm venditom bladi  
statuat' pcamet' & obier-  
d brasatrix non accrescat  
em in galone nisi p xijd  
in quartio brasij Et qui  
uis fregerunt primo scdo  
siet' et quarto sine re-  
suebant iudm tumbrell

sex qui vendit carnes  
supennual ssemitas vel  
morina vel emat carnes  
& vendat Xpianis post-  
o conuictus fuit Am'ciet'  
no conuict' subeat iudiciu  
tertio incarceret' & red.  
quarto abiuret villam.  
dicm fiat cocis transgre-  
&c

ardi bushelli galon vln  
Regis ferrato signent'  
et saluo custodian' sub  
ibraz. Et nulla mensura  
a nisi cum mensura dñi  
ncordans & sigill com-  
gnat Et siqvis emat vel

wine until he shall have obtained  
license from our lord the King or  
his marshal. The assize of ale  
must be determined proclaimed  
and kept according to the selling  
price of grain and malt so that  
the maltster must not raise the  
price a farthing in a gallon unless  
there be an increase of 12d in a  
quarter of malt And they who  
break the assize of ale the first  
second and third time must be  
fined and the fourth time without  
redemption must undergo the  
judgment of the tumbrel &c

A butcher who sells measled  
pork or meat dead from the cattle  
plague or who buys meat from  
Jews and afterwards sells it to  
Christians when convicted the  
first time must be fined heavily  
when convicted the second time  
he must undergo the judgement of  
the pillory the third time he must  
be imprisoned and redeemed and  
the fourth time he must abjure the  
town And this must be the  
judgement for cooks that trans-  
gress &c

(Folio 77a.)

The standard bushels gallons  
and ells must be stamped with  
the iron mark of our Lord the  
King they must be diligently  
kept in safe custody under a  
penalty of one hundred pounds  
And there must be no measure  
in the town not agreeing with  
the measure of our Lord the  
King and stamped with the mark  
of the county And if any one

vendant p mensuram non signat p  
Maiores & battios examinata guit  
am*cietur*. Omnes mensure ville.  
maiores et minores bis in anno vel  
sepius videant & examinentur. Si  
quis dephensus fuit cum duplice  
mensura scit maiori ad emendare  
& minori ad vendend tanqm fal-  
sonarius imprisone*t* & guit puni-  
atur Standardi bushelli galon vlnae  
& signum quo mensur signanda sunt  
sint in custodia Maioris & ballio*s*  
& sex legalium hoim de villa iurato*s*  
coram quibus omnes mensure signan-  
nande signent. Nullum genus  
bladi vendat. p cumulo vel p os-  
sellum p Aue*n* bras*n* & farinam  
Et p*cipue* ex pte d*n*i Regis p*cep*t**  
qd nullus forestallarius in villa  
paciat commorari qui paup*er* est  
depresso*m* manente & totius comi-  
tatus & patrie publicus inimicus  
qui blada pisco*s* Allec vel res Alias  
quascumq*z* venales quandoq*z*  
p terram quandoq*z* p Aquam  
obuiando p*celis* festinant qui mer-  
catores ext*neos* cum rebus venalibus  
obuiantes offerentes se vendio*r*  
rebus sua*z* & augent eis qd bona sua  
carnis vendere potunt qm ppone-

Nota

[Folio 77b.]

buys or sells by a measure not  
stamped upon examination by  
the mayor and bailiffs he must  
be heavily fined All measures  
of the town large and small must  
be seen and examined twice in  
the year or oftener If any one  
shall have been detected with a  
double measure that is a larger  
for buying and a smaller for sell-  
ing he must be imprisoned as a  
forger and severely punished  
The standard bushels gallons and  
ells and the stamp with which  
the measures are to be stamped  
must be in the custody of the  
mayor and bailiffs and six liege  
men sworn from the town in  
whose presence all the measures  
to be stamped must be stamped  
No kind of corn must be sold  
by the heap or "oscellum" ex-  
cept oats malt and meal And  
especially on behalf of our Lord  
the King it is ordered that no  
forestaller shall be allowed to  
dwell in the town who is mani-  
festly an oppressor of the poor  
and a public enemy of the whole  
county and country who hasten  
before the rest sometimes by  
land and sometimes by water to  
get corn fish herrings and any  
other things whatsoever offered  
for sale who go to meet the  
strange merchants with goods  
for sale offering themselves as  
salesmen of their goods and raise  
the price because they will be  
able to sell their goods at <sup>1</sup>

bant et sic arte vel ingenio villam seducunt & priam Primo conuictus Am<sup>o</sup>ciet g<sup>o</sup>uīt sēdo subiciat iudiciū pillorie . Tertio incarceret & redimat<sup>t</sup>. Quarto abiuret villam Et hoc iudiciū fiat de forestallarijs vniuersis et similiē de hijs qui auxiliū vel consiliū prestant vel fauorem Omnes vero culpabiles Attachati in pmissis ei p Am<sup>o</sup>ciamenta castigari noluerint & plures deliquerint g<sup>o</sup>uīt sustineat iudiciū corpor<sup>z</sup> suo<sup>z</sup> ut pillo<sup>r</sup> & tribocetum put sup<sup>dēm</sup> est

higher price than they intended and so by craft and subtlety beguile the town and country When first convicted he must be heavily fined the second time he must undergo the punishment of the pillory the third time he must be imprisoned and redeemed the fourth time he must abjure the town And this must be the judgment on forestallers one and all and similarly for those who help advise or favour them All men worthy of blame arrested in the premisses if they refuse to be corrected by fines and offend many times grievously must undergo corporal punishment at the pillory and tumbrel as is aforesaid

## LUCRUM PISTORIS &amp;c

NOTA qd pistor potest tenere Ass<sup>s</sup> & lucrare in quotit quartio frumenti put ordinal<sup>t</sup> est p pistor dñi Regis iiijd & le brynde & tres pañ ad furnagiū Et p iij s<sup>uient</sup> iijd . et p vno s<sup>uient</sup> qd Et in Sale ob et in yeest videt barme ob et in candel qd & in focal iijd Et in vno bultell ob Pañ dñic ponderabit min<sup>s</sup> symnello p ijs Panis ffrancisc<sup>s</sup> ponderabit min<sup>s</sup> dñico p ijs

## THE PROFITS OF A BAKER &amp;c

NOTE that a baker can keep the assize and gain in every quarter of corn as is ordained by our Lord the King's baker 4d and the bran and 3 loaves for payment for for use of his oven And for 3 servants 3d and for 1 servant  $\frac{1}{2}$ d And in salt  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and in yeast that is barm  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and in candle  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and in fuel 3d and in one sieve  $\frac{1}{2}$ d "panis dominicus" shall weigh less than "simnel bread" by 2s "panis franciscus" shall weigh less than "panis dominicus" by 2s

STATUTUM PONDERIBUS &  
MENSURIS

Itm ordinal<sup>t</sup> est p magnam Cartam . E . quond Reg Angt

STATUTE FOR WEIGHTS AND  
MEASURES

[Folio 78a.]

ITEM it was ordained by the great charter of Edward formerly

Anno regni sui xxvi<sup>lo</sup> Et p statutum Regis Ric*i* S*e*di Anno regni sui xiodecimo quod vnū pondus & vna mensura sit p totum regnū Angl*i* Et qd pondus de Auncell sit dampna<sup>l</sup> et qd omnes res ponderabit & vendibit sint ponderal p balaunse & qd le balaunse non magis inclinat ad vnam finem quam ad altam finem Et qd pondera sint concordanē cum ponderib;<sup>s</sup> de le standard in Sce*io* R & illi faciunt cont*ri*ū in venditiō foris faciunt domino Regi valorem dic re*z* sic vendit ponderal sine mensur*e* et soluent d*eo* querent quadripli<sup>c</sup> damp*p*. Et viii p statutū d*ei* Regis Ric*i* ordinat est qd d*ei* tran*ig*r erunt incarcерati p duos Annos & facient finem & redemptōem ad voluntat*R* &c Et qd Justic*e* de pace habent potestatem ad inquirende de tlib;<sup>s</sup> ponderib;<sup>s</sup> & mensur*e* Adeo b*n* ad sec*l* partis qm ad Sec*l* Regis &c

Itm ordinal est qd omnis Ciuitas Burgo & villa infra regnū Anglie habeat vnū cōe balaunse & vnum cōe pondus concordanl ad standard Sce*ij* sup*d*ei cū exp*n* totius commutat d*ca*z Ciuitat*l*

King of England in the 26th year of his reign and by statute of King Richard the Second in the 13th year of his reign that there should be one weight and one measure through the whole realm of England and that weight by Auncel should be condemned and that all things for weight and sale should be weighed by balance and that the balance should not lean more to one side than the other and that the weights should correspond with the weights of the standard in the King's Treasury and that they who do contrary in selling shall forfeit to our Lord the King the value of the said things so sold weighed without measure and shall pay to the said complainant his loss tour-fold And further by statute of the said King Richard it was ordained that the said transgressors shall be imprisoned for two years and shall pay fine and redemption at the King's will &c And that the Justices of the Peace shall have power to make enquiry about such weights and measures as well at the suit of a party as at the suit of the King &c

Also it was ordained that every city borough and town within the realm of England should have one common balance and one common weight corresponding to the standard of the treasury aforesaid at the cost of the community of the said cities

Burgh & villaz sup<sup>dic</sup>t<sup>e</sup> Itm Maiores aut Constabila<sup>d</sup> dca<sup>d</sup> Ciuitat<sup>b</sup> burg aut villaz habent custodiam de lez balaunse & ponderib<sup>b</sup> sup<sup>a</sup> dic<sup>e</sup> et qd hōies intitant<sup>d</sup> dcl Ciuitat<sup>b</sup> Burg aut vitt debunt masure & pondera sup<sup>a</sup> dict<sup>e</sup> libe sine cont<sup>d</sup>ictio<sup>e</sup> Aliquat quociens necessi<sup>b</sup> fuit Et omnes Alij ex<sup>a</sup>nei qui occupant dict<sup>b</sup> masure & pondera soluent in manib<sup>b</sup> deis Ciuitat<sup>b</sup> burg aut ville p<sup>a</sup> quotit xxx infra pondus de xl li . j . q<sup>a</sup> et p<sup>a</sup> quotit xxx . inf<sup>a</sup> xl li & C li j ob et p<sup>a</sup> quotit xxx infra . C li & ml li . j d et sic crescend p<sup>a</sup> xxx . ad tantam sumam quant<sup>b</sup> de balaunse portabit p<sup>a</sup> di- cressionem Maioris aut Cons<sup>b</sup> dca<sup>d</sup> Ciuitat<sup>b</sup> burg aut vitt . Et qd Justi<sup>c</sup> de pace hent potestatem adexamian<sup>d</sup> & inquirend de omnib<sup>b</sup> ponderib<sup>b</sup> & mensuris Aliquo modo male usitat<sup>b</sup> cont<sup>a</sup> formam pdēam aut incrochiand aut diminuend siue de ponderib<sup>b</sup> vel de impedimento de le balauns & de suo natural cursu sup<sup>a</sup> dicta forisfact & penas sup<sup>a</sup> dcas Et qd Justi<sup>c</sup> de pace Maiores & batti & senescall de visu ff<sup>a</sup>n<sup>c</sup> hent potestatem special ad exāiand & inquirend de talib<sup>b</sup> t<sup>a</sup>n<sup>c</sup> gressorib<sup>b</sup>

boroughs and towns aforesaid Also the mayors or constables of the said cities boroughs or towns shall have the custody of the balances and weights aforesaid and that the inhabitants of the said cities boroughs and towns shall have the measures and weights aforesaid freely and without refusal to any one as often as there shall be necessity and that all other strangers who use the said measures and weights shall pay into the hands of the said city borough or town for every 30 below the weight of 40lbs  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and for every 30 between 40lbs and 100lbs  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and for every 30 between 100 and 1000lbs id and so increasing by 30 to such a sum as the balance will carry by the discretion of the mayor or constable of the said cities boroughs or towns and that the justices of the peace have power to examine and enquire about all weights and measures in any way misused contrary to the form aforesaid either as to excess or deficiency in the weights or about a defect in the balance and its natural direction <sup>271</sup> the aforesaid forfeits and penalties And that the justices of the peace mayors bailiffs and stewards of manorial courts have special power to examine and enquire about such transgressors against the ordi-

[Folio 78b.]

<sup>271</sup> This is obscure, it appears as if some words were omitted.

sup<sup>a</sup> ordinacōem sup<sup>a</sup>dēam & ad faciend & exequend de ilib<sup>b</sup> qui inueniunt<sup>c</sup> defectuosī put in forma p̄dēa sup<sup>a</sup>dēm est. Et qd dēt ordinaēo tencat<sup>d</sup> & obseruet<sup>e</sup> A festo Pasch p̄z seqñ viq<sup>f</sup> inel<sup>g</sup>nū &c Jn oñi Ciuitate sub pena. x ti. Jtm in quott burgo sub pena. c s. Jtm in quatt villa vel indeſcū cuiusit constat<sup>h</sup> sub pena xls. Et qd sint vnū balaunse & pondera sup<sup>a</sup>dicta concordant<sup>i</sup> cū le stan-  
dard S<sup>ccij</sup> sup<sup>a</sup>dei infra duas  
ment<sup>j</sup> p̄z post pelamat<sup>k</sup> fact<sup>l</sup> de  
p̄dict<sup>m</sup> ordinatōe sup<sup>a</sup> peñ sup<sup>a</sup>-  
dict<sup>n</sup> soluend ad opus dñi Regis  
quotiens ptes p̄dicti videlt t<sup>ns</sup>-  
greſſores inuenit<sup>o</sup> fu<sup>p</sup>int detectuosī  
sup<sup>a</sup> dēam p̄clamatōem &c

Si panis pistoris sit magne  
etatis vel deficatus vīsa etate allo-  
cabunt<sup>q</sup> pistori p diem & noctem.  
vjd Et nota qd panes adherentes  
lat<sup>r</sup>ib<sup>s</sup> firñ non debent ponderari  
ppt<sup>t</sup> aduisionem. Et qui faciunt  
panem extra ass. Ita qd mini  
ponderant grauit<sup>u</sup> Am<sup>v</sup>ciant<sup>w</sup> et  
totum panem illum pdant &c

Et nota qd pañ quad<sup>x</sup> de  
omni blad ponderabit tantum  
quantum ponderat pañ quad<sup>x</sup>  
equiū et econ<sup>y</sup> &c

nance aforesaid, and to act and  
take measures about such as are  
found in fault according as it is  
said above in the form aforesaid  
And that the said ordinance be  
kept and observed from the  
feast of Easter next following  
for ever &c in every city under  
the penalty of ten pounds also  
in every borough under the  
penalty of 100s also in every  
town under the penalty of 40s  
And that there be one balance  
and weights as aforesaid cor-  
responding with the standard of  
the treasury aforesaid within  
two months next after procla-  
mation made of the aforesaid  
ordinance under the penalty  
abovesaid of paying to the use  
of our Lord the King as often  
as the parties aforesaid namely  
the transgressors shall have been  
found at fault with respect to the  
said proclamation &c

If a baker's bread be of great  
age or dried up with apparent  
age there shall be assigned to  
the baker for a day and a night  
6d and note that loaves firmly  
adhering to the bricks of the  
oven ought not to be weighed  
because of the scorching And  
they who make bread beyond the  
assize so that the loaves weigh  
very little must be heavily fined  
and lose all that bread &c

And note that the farthing  
loaf of every sort of corn shall  
weigh the same as a farthing loaf  
of horse-bread and the contrary &c

NCIPIT ASSISA PANIS IN  
ANGLIA &c

¶]vando quart*um* frumenti  
itur p xij denar*t* tunc panis  
frante de wastello pondera-  
x libras & sex decim solidos.  
¶ a de Coketto de eodem  
& eodem bultello pondera-  
usquam wastellus duob*z* sole  
sketo de eodem blado Mi-  
ptij ponderabit plusq*m*  
llus de quinq*z* sold*e*. Panis  
e symonello bene cocto pon-  
it min*s* wastello de duob*z*  
¶ Panis v*o* integer de fru-  
& de quadrante pondera-  
Coketum & dimidi*u*. Panis  
le Treyte ponderabit duos  
llos. Et panis de o*n*i blado  
erabit duos coketos. Quando  
i*u* frumenti vendit<sup>r</sup> ad xvij  
tunc panis albus & bene  
de wastello & de quadrante  
erabit iij*s* ti ix*s* viij*d*. Quar-  
lijs tunc ponderabit lxvij*s*.  
¶ ad ijs vjd. tunc pon-  
it liijs iiijd ob*z* q*o*. Quart*u*  
js. tunc ponderabit xlviij*s*.  
li*u* ad iij*s* vjd. tunc xlijs.  
li*u* ad iij*o* sot tunc pondera-  
xxvjs. Quart*u* ad iij*s* vjd.  
ponderabit xxxs. Quart*u*  
, tunc ponderabit xxvij*s*.  
¶ Quart*u* ad vs vjd. tunc  
erabit xxiijs viijd q*o* Quar-  
ad vjs tunc ponderabit  
viijd Quart*u* ad vjs vjd

HERE BEGINS THE ASSIZE OF  
BREAD IN ENGLAND &c

When a quarter of corn is  
sold for 12 pence then a farthing  
loaf of wastel shall weigh six  
pounds and sixteen solidi Also  
a loaf of cocket bread of the same  
grain and the same bran shall  
weigh more than wastel by  
two solidi And cocket bread of  
the same grain of less price  
shall weigh more than wastel by  
five solidi But a loaf of simnel  
well baked shall weigh less than  
wastel by two solidi But a whole  
loaf of corn for a farthing shall  
weigh a cocket loaf and a half  
But a loaf of Treyte<sup>23</sup> shall  
weigh two wastel loaves And  
a loaf of every [other] grain  
shall weigh two cocket loaves  
When a quarter of corn is sold  
at 18d then a white and well  
baked loaf of wastel for a far-  
thing shall weigh 4l gs 8d A  
quarter at 2s then it shall  
weigh 68s a quarter at 2s 6d  
then it shall weigh 54s 4*1*d a  
quarter at 3s then it shall weigh  
48s a quarter at 3s 6d then it  
shall weigh 42s a quarter at 4s  
then it shall weigh 36s a quarter  
at 4s 6d then it shall weigh 30s  
a quarter at 5s then it shall  
weigh 27s 2*1*d a quarter at 5s  
6d then it shall weigh 24s 8*1*d  
a quarter at 6s then it shall weigh  
22s 8d a quarter at 6s 6d then

[Folio 79b.]

ponderabit.  $\text{xxs}$   $\text{xjd}$ . Quart*iiū* ad vijs tunc ponderabit.  $\text{xixs}$   $\text{vd}$ . Quart*iiū* ad vijs  $\text{vjd}$ . tunc ponderabit xviijs jd ob Quart*iiū* ad viijs tunc ponderabit. xvij s. Quart*iiū* ad viijs vjd tunc ponderabit xvjs s. Quart*iiū* ad ixs tunc ponderabit .xvs q<sup>a</sup> Quart*iiū* ad ixs vjd tūc ponderēt xiijs iiijd ob q<sup>a</sup> Quart*iiū* ad xs tunc ponderēt xiijs vij q<sup>a</sup> Quart*iiū* ad xs vjd tunc ponderēt xijs xjd q<sup>a</sup> Quart*iiū* ad xjs tunc ponderabit xijs iiijd q<sup>a</sup> Quālūm ad xjs vjd tunc ponderabit. xjs xd Quart*iiū* ad xijs tunc ponderabit .xjs iiijd. Alīsa panis f<sup>m</sup> qd continet<sup>r</sup> in scripto de marchalcia dominī Regis eis libata teneat<sup>r</sup> sēdm venditōem frumenti Sily melioris sēdi & tūj & tam wastelli q<sup>m</sup> omes alij panes cuiuscumq<sup>g</sup> gen<sup>i</sup>s sint venderent<sup>r</sup> sēdm media veditōem frumenti. Et non mittatur alīsa nec pondvs nisi p sex denarijs crescentib<sup>j</sup> vel decrescentib<sup>j</sup> in venditōe quart*iiij* frumenti Et sciend est qd pistor potest lucrari in quolib<sup>t</sup> quart*iiū* frumenti vt probatum est p Pistores dñi Regis quatuor denareos & furfur suū & duos panes ad furnagiū & trib<sup>j</sup> s<sup>9</sup>ui- entib<sup>j</sup> jd ob Et duob<sup>j</sup> garcōib<sup>j</sup> ob .Jtī ad sal ob ad candēt q<sup>a</sup> ad bustam iij denar. Et ad bul- tellum locandum ob &c

[Folio 80a.]

it shall weigh 20s 1d a quarter at 7s then it shall weigh 19s 5d a quarter at 7s 6d then it shall weigh 18s 1½d a quarter at 8s then it shall weigh 17s a quarter at 8s 6d then it shall weigh 16s a quarter at 9s then it shall weigh 15s 0½d a quarter at 9s 6d then it shall weigh 14s 4½d a quarter at 10s then it shall weigh 13s 7½d a quarter at 10s 6d then it shall weigh 12s 11½d a quarter at 11s then it shall weigh 12s 4½d a quarter at 11s 6d then it shall weigh 11s 10d a quarter at 12s then it shall weigh 11s 4d The assize of bread according to what is contained in writing in the Marshalsea of our lord the King delivered to them must be kept according to the selling price of corn that is to say best second and third sorts as well wastells as all other loaves of whatever kind they may be must be sold according to the average price of corn And the assize must not be changed nor the weight except for a rise or fall of sixpence in the selling price of a quarter of corn And it must be known that a baker can make profit in every quarter of corn as is approved by the bakers of our lord the King four pence and his bran and two loaves for the use of his oven and for three servants 1½d and for two boy servants ½d Also for salt ½d for candle ½d for firewood 3d and for hire of sieve ½d &c

## INCIPIT ASSISA CERUISIE

[Q]vando quartium frumenti vendit' ad tres solidę, vel ad quadraginta denar. Et quart' iū Ordei ad viginti denar vel ad duos solidę. Et quart' Auene ad xvij. denar vel ad xvij denar tunc debent et bene possunt Brasiatrices vendē in Ciuitatib; duas lagenas ad denar & extra Ciuitates tres lagenas ad denar & quando in Burgo vident tres lagene ad denar extra Burgum debent vendi quatuor lagene ad denar. Ista assisa est p totam Anglie ex productione domini Regis &c

HERE BEGINS THE ASSIZE  
OF ALE

When a quarter of corn is sold at three shillings or at forty pence and a quarter of barley at twenty pence or at two shillings and a quarter of oats at sixteen pence or eighteen pence then the maltsters ought and are well able to sell in cities two gallons for a penny and outside the cities three gallons for a penny and when in a borough there shall be sold three gallons for a penny outside the borough there ought to be sold four gallons for a penny This assize is throughout the whole of England by provision of our lord the King &c

[Folio 8ob.]

## COMPOSITIO POND &amp; MENSURAZ

[P]er ordinatōem totius Regni Angt fuit mensura dñi Regis composita videlet qd denarius Anglicanus qui vocatur sterlingus rotundus & sine tonsura ponderabit triginta duo gna frumenti in medio Spice. Et vncia debet ponderare viginti denar. Et quindecim vnce faciūt libram londoñ Et octo libre frumenti faciunt galonem vini. Et octo galones frumenti faciūt bussellum londoñ hoc est octauam ptem quartij. Duodecim libre & dimidia faciūt petram londoñ. Saccus lane debet ponderar xxvij. petras. Waya v'o tam blumbi qm lane sepi & casei ponderat.

THE COMPOSITION OF  
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

By ordinance of the whole realm of England the measure of our lord the King was arranged namely the English penny called sterling round and unclipped shall weigh thirty two grains of corn in the middle of the ear and an ounce ought to weigh twenty pennies and fifteen ounces make a pound at London and eight pounds of corn make a gallon of wine and eight gallons of corn make a bushel at London that is the eighth part of a quarter twelve pounds and a half make a stone at London A sack of wool ought to weigh 28 stones but a wey of lead wool tallow and cheese weighs

[Folio 81a.]

xijij. petra et due waie lane faciunt vnū saccū et duodecim sacci faciunt le last. Et last v̄o Allecīū continet decem miliaria & quolibz miliarū continet denos centū & quodl̄ Centum ex sexies viginti. last v̄o Corioz constat ex viginti dakeres & quodl̄ dakir constat ex decem corijs. Jt̄m Centena Rucarij cere pipis simini amigdalaz & allume continet. xij. petras & dimidiam & quilibet petra continet octo libr̄ suū libraz in Centena Centum & octo libre & concifit le Centum ex quinques viginti & quelibet libra ex viginti & quinq̄ solidis. Sciend est qd libra denarioz speciez confectionum vt pote electuarioz concifit in pondeř viginti solidis. libra v̄o aliaz rez ponderat. xxv . solid Jt̄m in electuarijs confectioibz libra continet duodecim vncie et vncia concifit in pōdeř xx. Jt̄m Centena Bordi Canabi & binie cele constat ex Centum vlnis & Bordis & quilibz Centena ex sexies viginti. Centena v̄o ferri constat ex quinques viginti. Gaba v̄o Calibus continet triginta pecias seem v̄o vitriū constat ex triginta petris & quilibet petra ex quatuor lib & ita continet le seem sexies viginti libr̄. Bynda v̄o Anguillaz constat ex decem stickes & quilibet sticka ex viginti & quinq̄ Anguill. Bynda v̄o pelliū

14 stones and two weys of wool make one sack and twelve sacks make a last. And then a last of herrings contains ten thousand and every thousand ten hundred and every hundred six score But a last of hides consists of twenty dickers and every dicker consists of ten hides Also a hundredweight of "rucarii" wax pepper cummin almonds and alum contains 13 stones and a half and every stone contains eight pounds The total number of pounds in a hundredweight is a hundred and eight pounds and the hundred consists of five score and every pound of twenty five shillings It must be known that a pound of pennies splices confections as electuaries is equal in weight to twenty shillings but a pound of other things weighs 25 shillings Also in electuary confections a pound contains twelve ounces, and an ounce is equal in weight to 20 pence Also a hundredweight of timber hemp and "binie cele" consists of a hundred ells and planks and every hundredweight of six score but a hundredweight of iron consists of five score But a gaba of iron contains twenty pieces and a seem of glass consists of thirty stones and every stone of four pounds and so the seem contains six score pounds And a bind of eels consists of ten sticks and every stick of twenty-five eels And a bind of skins

is contains thirty-three skins but a  
 "tymbra" of rabbit skins and bad-  
 skins consists of forty skins A  
 of "fustian" consists of 13  
 piece of linen contains 10 ells  
 "rees allium" contains  
 and each scone of 25  
 Also a hundredweight of  
 swells and hard fish consists  
 of eight score &c

[Folio 81b.]

A TEMPE JOHIS SAXBY MAIOR ANNO RR  
 & VIIJ PRIMO PRO ARTE HELLATAR  
 MADE IN THE TIME OF JOHN SAXBY <sup>273</sup> MAYOR IN  
 FIRST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VIII  
 FOR THE TILERS' CRAFT]

IT the comon Semble holden in the Guyhald in the Towne  
 of Norh'mpton the fryday [Friday, 18th May, 1509] aftir  
 of the Assencyon of oure lorde The fyrt yere of the Reign  
 e souayn lorde kyng henry the viij<sup>th</sup> by the examynacyon &  
 te discreffyon of John Saxby mayre of the seide townn of  
 mpton with the full compremysyon of his Cobrethern wyth  
 xiiij<sup>th</sup> comburgesse of the forseide toun to hym sworne And  
 vith the hoole assent and consent of the hole body of the  
 toun In consideracon of the p<sup>r</sup>mysses Where the Craftes of  
 s and Sclatiers of the seide town pytiously shewyth &  
 ayneth theym for as muche As many & diilfe of the seide  
 acion occupieth within the toun aswell foryners and straungers  
 hose that bien vnfranchisede as we that byn sworne and  
 shifed By the wiche moche warke is not suffcyently doon  
 wrought as it ought for to be to the greate herte losse of  
 that doo sett theym a warke By the wych many seducyose  
 and clamour risythe of the seide occupacon as well of  
 that workyth sufficiently & truly as of theym that workyth  
 fully Wherfor it is ordeyned and stablised for euermor for  
 iyy<sup>th</sup> fall wele of the seide toun That ther shalbe two mastirs

[Folio 82a.]

For fcalatears  
or helyars.

John Saxby or Saxbee was mayor of the town in 1509-10, 1520-1, & 1532-3.  
 This ordinance is written by a later hand.

of the same Crafte to be electe and chosen for the yer ensuyng and for that yer to come before the maire for the tyme beyng in the Guyhald to take their othes that they shall truely and cuerly to oue see and serche of and all maner of defaltes & trespasses doon or made in the seide Crafte of Hilliers & iclatiers in the seide toun of Norhampton for the tyme beyng And that the sayde maisters to fertyfye & make relacon of suche hurtyes harmes & losses to the maire for the tyme beyng what psonne or psonnes trespassyf or offendith w'ought eny conseilment therof in payne therof to pay to the maire of the seide toun for the tyme beyng xx<sup>4</sup> And to the maisters of the seide crafte for the tyme being other xx<sup>4</sup> to the sustenaunce & mayntenyng of ther light be fore oure lady in the freoure preachers<sup>24</sup> in Northampton for the tyme beyng .And furthermor that no maner of straunger that comyth to the toun of North for to worke ther noo man<sup>9</sup> of warke w'in this toun but yf he worke vnder or wyth that man that is fraunchisede & sworne to the liberties & ffreedoms of the seide toun to the same occupacion belongyng In payne to paye to the maire for the tyme beyng xiij<sup>4</sup> And also other xiij<sup>4</sup> to be payed to the maisters of the seid Crafte to the sustenaunce & maynteynng of their seide light for the tyme beyng .moreoule it is graunted to the seide maisters of the seide Crafte for the tyme beyng to call and sommen all those psonnes belongyng or appteynnyng to the same Crafte wythin the seide toun of North for to appere Afore theym at the howle of the blak freours in the seide toun of North as oftyn as shall deme necessary for the vnusall wele of the seide Crafte of hilliers and the goode Rule & ordre of the same Crafte in tymes to come .Also yf ony psonne or psonnes refuse soo to doo And come not att their dewe somonys Accordyngly to their ordenaunce here expressed furthermor what psonne or psonnes that offendyf or trespassyf in this be halfe Then he or they to paye to the maire of the seide toun for the present tyme beyng jii of were And also another pounde of were to the maisters of the seide Crafte for the tyme beyng to the sustentacion & mayntenyng of their light befor oure lady ther at the seide place of blake freours w<sup>t</sup> lycense Albyd or a resonable cause of lette proued .Afore the meire for the tyme beyng .The which acte & ordenaunce to stonde in his full strenght emonge other

<sup>24</sup> The House of the Black Friars was the same as the House of the Ffr  
Preachers, before mentioned, in the Horse Market, Northampton.

ordenauncez in the seide toun of Norhampton for euer to endure [Folio 83a.]  
 In wittnes wherof We the seide John Saxby wyth my Cobrethern  
 & w<sup>t</sup> the hole body of the seide toun of Norhampton to this  
 present writyng haven setto the seall of the office of meryaltye of  
 the seide toun of Norhampton the day & yere Above wretton &c

**ORDINACO FFACIT TEMPE JOHIS HILTON MAIOR P ARTE TEXTIZ** [Folio 83b.]  
**AN<sup>o</sup> RR HENR VIII TERCIO &c**

[ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF JOHN HILTON<sup>275</sup> MAYOR  
 FOR THE WEAVERS' CRAFT IN THE THIRD YEAR OF  
 THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VIII.]

[A]t A comyn semble holden in the Guyhalde of the town of Norhampton the fridaie [Friday, 19th December, 1511] next by fore the fest of saint Thomas the Appostell in the thyrd yer of the Reigne of oure loueynge lord kyng Henr the viij<sup>th</sup> by the assent of John Hilton then beyng maier of the same town his xxiiij Comburges with all the Comnaltie of the seide town ther beyng þsent it is Accordid condecendid & aggregre for eu to endure that noo weu w<sup>t</sup>in the funches & lbties of this town shall take of noo clothemaker within the same town dwellyng no leise stusse for to make a cloth of cut as moche yarne as wyll make a sufficiaunt clothe As hath byn vsed to be made in tymes past And that they shall delyu no clothe of ther owen nor of non other mannys ougte of their howse; vnto tyme that the serchers of the same occupacon wiche be sworne haue sene proved and vewed that hit be sufficiaunlye woven & goode warkmanshipe theropon to make goode clothe of And that all suche psones as be serchers & sworne for the tyme beyng shall see euy clothe drawen ou the beme or it passe the weu house And yf that they either for losse of favoure do not trewly their deutie accordyng to their othes that then thei to be at suche fyne as shall be thowght resonable by the meir for the tyme beyng & his Councell And what weu so eu ther be that do not send for the seide serchers of his occupacon When his clothe is woven to see it he or they that doth the contrarie therin or in Any of these articles or ordinauncez beforeseide shall lose & paie

[Folio 84a.]

<sup>275</sup> John Smith was mayor of the town in 1512-3, and dying during his year of office, John Hilton was elected mayor in his stead.

as ofte as thei or any of them so dothe offend xl<sup>l</sup> the oon halfe therof to be paied to the meir for the tyme beyng as Comyn tresoure for the towne And the other halfe to be paiede to the fraternyte of the trynnyte within the chyrche of all holowys of the same towne And that no maner p̄ione off what Estate degree of condicon soev̄ he be that dothe Attempt in Any tyme to come to the breche or hurtyng of Any of these ordinaunce; beforeseide shall & paie to the towne xij<sup>s</sup> iij<sup>d</sup> with ougt fauoure or pdon as ofte as they soo dothe offend in that behalfe Provided alwey that these statute; & ordynance; Afore made take their begynnnyng to stand in their strength at the ffest of the purificacon of our blyssed lady [2nd February] then next followyng And so from yere to yere for euer more to endure as it is above seide

ORDINACō FFAC̄ TEMPE JOH̄S HILTON MAIOR AN<sup>o</sup> RR HEN<sup>o</sup>  
 OCTAUI TERCIO PRO ARTE FFULLORŪ &c  
 [ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF JOHN HILTON MAYOR IN  
 THE THIRD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VIII  
 FOR THE FULLERS' CRAFT &c.]

[Folio 84b.] [A]t A Comyn semble holden in the Guyhald of the town of Norhampton the fridaie [19th December, 1511] next before the fest of saint Thomas the Appostell in the thyrde yere of the Reigne of oure soueyne lorde kyng Hen̄ the viij<sup>th</sup> by the Assent of John Hilton than beyng meire of the same towne his xxiiij<sup>s</sup> Comburge; with all the Cominalte of the same town ther beyng þsent It is accorded condecendide & aggred That no fuller deiy<sup>u</sup> nor cause to be delyued noon clothe ougt of his Gounaunce; to the mill vntyll the tyme that the serchers for the tyme haue viewed it & sene it ou a perche that it be well truely & suffisiently burled in the Payne who dothe to the contrarie to paie xx<sup>s</sup> as often as any of them so dothe offend And that they sett noon clothe vpon the teyntor or teyntoris after hit be thibbyd vntill the tyme that the Comyn Sealler haue striken it & sene that it be goode sufficient & true drapeye made And that they drawe noon clothe upon the teyntor or teyntouris but to even it & to fashon it not above vii a yerd at the moxe Apon lyke Payne a fore rehersid And if any of them sett <sup>þ</sup>

<sup>þ</sup>The ordinance ends abruptly at the bottom of the page.

INACIO P PISTOR TEMPE  
RICI WHELAR MAIOR

¶d husteng tenē in Guyville Norhampton die lune  
¶t fīm sc̄i Dionisij Anno F F  
octau decimo p exemplam  
tioem Ric̄i Whelar tunc dē  
saior Robti Long & Thome  
ston ibm Battioz & p Aui-  
nē ac confiliū Johis Watte  
Saxby Johis Pvyn Johis  
n Thome Penny Thome Chip-  
sey Walker Witt Bonde &  
Dyxton nup maiof dēe vill  
n plurib⁹ de xxiiij⁹ Com-  
mūs ad tunc & ibm coūo-  
ā vnanimi Assentū & concēlū  
Artificē arte pītoz ville pdce  
ens Ordinatio et statutum  
edit⁹ est & stabili⁹ temporo-  
infut⁹ duratu⁹ put in ligua  
na sequit⁹ in hec verba &c

ORDINANCE FOR BAKERS IN [Folio 8sa.]  
THE TIME OF RICHARD  
WHELAR<sup>277</sup> MAYOR

At a court of hustings held  
in the Guildhall of the town of  
Northampton on Monday [11th  
October, 1518] next after the  
feast of St Denys in the tenth  
year of the reign of King Henry  
the eighth by the excellent discre-  
tion of Richard Whelar then mayor  
of the said town Robert Long  
and Thomas Pemberton bailiffs  
there and by the advice and  
counsel of John Wattes John Sax-  
by John Parvyn John Hilton  
Thomas Penny Thomas Chipsey  
John Walker William Bonde and  
Richard Dyxson lately mayors of  
the said town and several of the  
24 burgesses then and there  
called together with the unani-  
mous assent and consent of all  
the workers of the craft of bakers  
of the town aforesaid the fol-  
lowing ordinance and statute is  
now published and established  
to last for future times as follows  
in our mother tongue in these  
words &c

hat flor so moche that non Artificer of the same crafte nor non  
eir wife childer nor iuantē take opon them to Gyff or to sell in  
an⁹ of place w'in this town nor in the Contrey eny more bred  
de for a des⁹ but xij⁹ penyworphe at the moste & if ther be  
ſ the ſeid crafte or eny other for them wiſe doth the con-  
& due pve therof made he or thei that ſo offendith to leſe  
þ euy tyme as ofte as he is take w'ſ ſuche defaut the oon  
þ therof to the maier for the tyme beyng & the other halffie to the

Bakers that  
ſell above  
xii to the  
dolyn.

[Folio 8sb.]

Richard Whelar, or Wheeler, was mayor of the town in 1519-20.

occupacon moreoū it is ordeyned also that if eny of the seid Artificers & eny of their sūunte wiche laden his horse or horses at his house w<sup>t</sup> bred to carie into the Countre by the wey as he goithe dothe sell off his seid horse in seynt James ende seint Edmundē ende or in Coton<sup>278</sup> eny man<sup>9</sup> brede either more or leſe & who so eū that ſo dothe offendre to leſe eū tyme vj<sup>9</sup> viij<sup>4</sup> the halfe therof to the maier for the tyme beyng & the other halfe to the Crafte And also if eny of the ſeid crafte do receyve eny man<sup>9</sup> greene of corne opon the eny m<sup>9</sup>ket daie But iff it be bought in the m<sup>9</sup>ket the ſame daie that he or thei ſo receyve it to leſe vj<sup>9</sup> viij<sup>4</sup> at eū tyme that he is take w<sup>t</sup> defaut the oon halffe to the maier & the other halfe to the occupacon

m<sup>4</sup> the last day off November Ao Dm 1556 tempore Joh<sup>e</sup> Balgey<sup>279</sup> maiore Laurentio Manley Justiciarijs pacis this ordinaunce was Revyued for xiiij to y<sup>e</sup> doſen vpon payne abouefeyd as well whit wheat and horſebred halff to y<sup>e</sup> mayour halff to the chaumber &c<sup>280</sup>

#### ORDINAĀC P ARTE CARNIFIĀC

[ORDINANCE FOR THE CRAFT OF BUTCHERS.]

[Folio 86a.]

[T]o all trut Cristen people to whom this pſent writyng ar to be holde redde herde or ſee we John Saye<sup>281</sup> maire of the town of Norþt Henꝝ Humfrey Robard Shefford John Solle John Wattis John Smyth Richard Criſpe & Thom<sup>s</sup> Parker late meires Thom<sup>s</sup> Crown Thomas Crafeld ther beyng Baillif<sup>3</sup> w<sup>t</sup> xxiiij Comburges and the xlviij<sup>4</sup> of the ſame town of Norþt Ther at ther Comen assemble holden in the Guyhald the mondaie [24th March, 1505] next aft<sup>9</sup> the fest of ſaint Edward the kyng The xx<sup>4</sup> yer of the reign of King Henꝝ the vii<sup>9</sup> Thei haue graunted conſermed & etabliſhedyd this pſent ordinaunce w<sup>t</sup> diuſe articles conc<sup>9</sup>nyng the vniuſale wele to the hole crafte of bochers in the ſeide toun for the goode ſadde Rewle & gouaunce Emongis theym for eū vnder written dothe apper The firſte poyn̄te & article is that their ſhalbe chosen ij maisters by xij men of the ſame crafte w<sup>t</sup>in the ſeide toun to haue oūſight of the ſeide crafte as for oon yere That is to ſey

<sup>278</sup> Three ſuburbs of Northamptōn.

<sup>279</sup> John Balgey, or Balguye, was mayor of the town in 1557-8 and 1566-7

<sup>280</sup> This paragraph is written in a later hand.

<sup>281</sup> John Saye, or Saks, was mayor of the town in 1505-6.

the vytell that thei kylle & sée be goode & able to manrys  
 mete And if any man of the seide crafte doo the contrarie then  
 hit shalbe lefull to the maisters and wardens of the seide crafte  
 to complayne to the maire of the town then beyng apon them  
 And that none of the seid crafte rebuke ne repve none of the  
 seide two maisters for the tyme beyng Apon the Payne of iiij<sup>o</sup> iiiij<sup>a</sup>  
 as ofte as thei doo so offend to the seid maisters or to any of  
 their succelours And the forseid forseide devyded equally the oon  
 halfe to the maire then beyng And the other halfe to pffight of  
 the seide occupation & light <sup>282</sup>(Item that noo man of the seide  
 Crafte sée noo man<sup>o</sup> of fleshe opon the sondaie till it be paste  
 midnyght vpon the Payne of eny defawte to paie to the light  
 & to the maire then beyng xijd) Item that euy man of the same  
 crafte be redy to come to the maisters of the seide crafte by a  
 resonable warnynge when sooo eū the case shall requyre except  
 that he haue a resonable excuse & cause that thei maie not  
 attende appon the Payne of euy defaupte iijs iiiijd the oon halfe to  
 the maire & the other halfe to the occupacion moreouē þt noo man  
 of the seide crafte sewe a nother man of the seid crafte for noo  
 man<sup>o</sup> of accon reall or þsonall w'owte licence of the maisters of  
 the seide crafte vpon the Payne of euy defaupte xxs the oon halfe  
 to the maire & the other halfe to the pffight of the seid occu-  
 paccon Provided alwey that noo man of the seide crafte dight  
 noone old shepe in stede of a lambe to the deceyte of the kynges  
 people vpon the Payne of euy defaupte to the maire and to the  
 light xijd furthermore þt noo man nor noo manrys iuaunt caile  
 noo man<sup>o</sup> of offale as lightis longis hornes & other anoyable  
 thyngis be hynde the stallis nor oon the pawment vpon the  
 Payne of xijd þt oon halfe to the maire & the other halfe to the  
 þffitte of the occupacon And that noo man wyllefully sée no man<sup>o</sup>  
 of swyne oon or other w'in the bochery or stallis owpenle vpon the  
 Payne of xijd ut sup <sup>283</sup>(Also that thei sée noo fleshe oon the  
 sondaie nor kutt noo hole quarter w'owte license of þe maisters or by  
 the comaundement of the maire or that a lordis catour<sup>o</sup> come to  
 the toun vpon þt Payne of euy defaupte of xijd ut sup) And ouē  
 that that noo man lay forth none Inwardis of bestis on the stallis  
 but þt it be slayne the same daie vpon Payne of euy defaupte <sup>284</sup> (xijd)  
 vjd to the light of the seide crafte Jtm that thei kutt noo fleshe

[Folio 86b.]

\* These paragraphs have been ruled through in the Liber.

oon þ<sup>e</sup> ffridaie but ys thei sell a quart<sup>9</sup> or a side or a hole belt  
 vppon the Payne of eu<sup>y</sup> defaute to the maire and to the plyte  
 of the occupacon xiij<sup>283</sup>(moreou<sup>9</sup>) that thei sell noo fusiny hogges  
 but that thei send them home whereas thei bought vppon the  
 Payne of defaute to the maire & the occupacon xxs) Provided  
 alwey þ<sup>e</sup> none of the seide ffcalohip calle a nother of his tealo-  
 ship knave in anger nor other vnkynde wordis speke amouge  
 them false othir wyse then they ought to doo oone to a nother  
 vppon the Payne of eu<sup>y</sup> defaute vjd the oon halfe to the maire  
 & the other halfe to the pflyte of the occupacon And yt he  
 what soe eue he be soo offendyng will not hold his peas at the  
 commaundement of the masters he to forfeitt at eu<sup>y</sup> defaute to  
 the maire & to the occupacon xiij<sup>2</sup> furthermore that no man  
 nor non of their l<sup>o</sup>untis bye noo kalf comyng towarde the  
 market of Norh<sup>m</sup>pton till it be in the m<sup>er</sup>ket place wher  
 hit shall be Assigned vppon the Payne of eu<sup>y</sup> defaute vjd the  
 oon halfe to the maire & the other halfe to the pfitt of the  
 seid occupacon Item that no man cary noo fleshe in lomes  
 oon the Payne of vjs viijd the oon half to the maier & the  
 other halfe to the seid occupacon ne Caste it in the Rever  
 nor in non other place but there as hit shalbe Assigned vppon  
 þ<sup>e</sup> Payne of eu<sup>y</sup> defaute xiij<sup>2</sup> ut sup And that eu<sup>y</sup> man ley owte  
 their skynnes & hiddis in the m<sup>er</sup>ket place vppon the Payne of  
 eu<sup>y</sup> defaute vjs viijd the oon halfe to the mayer & the other  
 halfe to the occupacon Also that no man bie no man<sup>9</sup> of morte  
 beite vppon the Payne of eu<sup>y</sup> defaute xxd ut sup And on that  
 that noo kylle pockey shepe ne noo sowe bryme vppon the  
 payn of eu<sup>y</sup> defaute xxs the oon halfe therof to the maire  
 the other half to the pfight of the seide occupacon moreou<sup>9</sup> that  
 noo man slay nor kille noman<sup>9</sup> of borepigge nor ley it oon the  
 stalles vppon the Payne of eu<sup>y</sup> defaute xiij<sup>2</sup> vt sup And that noo man  
 ley noo fleshe owte when the masters hathe leid it in vppon  
 the Payne of ev<sup>y</sup> defaute vjd ut sup And also noo man kutte  
 ne sell noo fleshe before iiiij of the cloke in the mornynge vppon  
 the Payne of eu<sup>y</sup> defaute vjd ut sup Item that noo man holde  
 owpen his shoppe noo lenger than ix of the cloke at night in  
 somer And till viij of the cloke in wynter vppon eu<sup>y</sup> defaute  
 vjd to the maire and to the occupacon And that man nor noo

<sup>283</sup> This paragraph has been ruled through in the *Liber*.

mannys <sup>l</sup>uant calle noo man woman nor childe þ comys to the stalles to bie vitells from his neighbours borde to his borde vppon the Payne of eu<sup>y</sup> defawte vjd ut sup <sup>24</sup>(And that thei kylle no man<sup>9</sup> of fleishe oon the saturdaie vppon the Payne of eu<sup>y</sup> defaut xijd ut sup) Also the xij men hath ordeyned that the olde maisters shall requyre the crafte to come togedur oon þ tueidaie after martyllmase daie And thei there to make the xij men a trewe accompte for theire tyme And there the xij men to chose ij other men maisters for that yere that is to come And if the olde maisters faile & come not to their assamble as vppon this forseid above lymytted Than the xij men that ordenyed that the seid olde maisters shall lese to the maier & to the occupacon xxs Moreou<sup>9</sup> that noo man nor non other of their <sup>l</sup>uantis sell any man<sup>9</sup> of vitell oon the sondaei vppon Payne of eu<sup>y</sup> defau<sup>t</sup>e ijs iiijd ut sup Provided also that noo man sett a nother manys a worke till he be clerely from his master upon the Payne of eu<sup>y</sup> defau<sup>t</sup>e vjs vijd ut sup furthemor that noo man haue noo comen gaderer of kalves but only their owen <sup>l</sup>uantes vppon the Payne of ijs iiijd ut sup <sup>24</sup>(Also that noo man kepe noo fleishe in his howse nor in the stalles that wase slayne oon the thuridaie to be founde oon the saturdaie withoute hit be in falte on the peyn of eu<sup>y</sup> defau<sup>t</sup>e xijd ut sup) And that noo man of the seide occupacion take noo man<sup>9</sup> of howse ne pasture ou<sup>9</sup> a nothe of his brethern heddis vppon the Payne of eu<sup>y</sup> defau<sup>t</sup>e therof made xxs ut sup Provided alwey that it is ordenyed that the maisters & wardens of the seid crafte of bochers to rere levy & to receyve all man<sup>9</sup> of synes & trespassis as is above specyfied in the forseid ordinaunce And thei to be Accomptaunt for their seide yere that thei occupied vnto the maisters & wardens that shall succede theym the next yer aft that And to delyue there money & stoke in to their handis by fore the seide xij men of the seide occupacion Savyng only the oon halfe therof for to be ref<sup>ued</sup> & delyued to the maier for the tyme beyng vpon the Payne to paie to the seid maire masters & wardens for the tyme beyng xxd Also the maisters for the tyme beyng doo not execute & correct truly eu<sup>y</sup> defau<sup>t</sup>e accordyng to ther othe vppon of eu<sup>y</sup> defau<sup>t</sup>e therof made to the maire & to the light of the seid occupacion xxs &c This Acte & ordinaunce to be regestred and

[Folio 87b.]

[Folio 88a.]

<sup>24</sup> These paragraphs are ruled through in the *Liber*.

written in the regesture in the town off Norhampton Amongis other actis & ordenaunce there to remayne in strenght and effect for eñmor to Endure &c

ORDINAÇO FACT̄ TEMPE  
JOHIS GOLDWYER MAIOR ANNO  
RR HENR VII VNDECIMO

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE  
TIME OF JOHN GOLDWYER<sup>25</sup>  
MAYOR IN THE ELEVENTH  
YEAR OF THE REIGN OF  
KING HENRY VII

[S]ciatis nos concessisse &  
hac carta nra confirmasse maiori  
balliuis & burgenses eiuid vill  
Norhampton omes libertat f'ncches<sup>26</sup>  
& cōsuetud eiisd vill tangent<sup>27</sup>  
infra libertat p̄det concenant ut  
patz ibscript<sup>28</sup>

You may know that we have  
granted and by this our charter  
have confirmed to the Mayor  
Bailiffs and Burgesses of the  
same town of Northampton all  
the liberties franchises and cus-  
toms to the same town apper-  
taining within the liberty afore-  
said concerning as is plainly  
written below

Wher it is prouyded ordyned enacted & established for euer to  
endure by diſſe & many noble kyngs of Englond in tymes  
paſſed hathe graunted ratified & confermyd right honorable  
chartoure & confirmacions off f'unchesis liberties f'recūtomes &  
vſages to the town of Norh̄t appteyng for the cōuacon of the  
kyngs peace within the ſeid town & good and l'bſtanciall gy-  
dyng good Rule therin to be mayntened obſued & kept Accor-  
dyng to the p̄ſuaçn of the borouge & of all thenhabitanate  
and dwellers therin And for the reſtfulnes & quietenes of the  
ſame toun & borouge The kyngs moſt noble grace of his gracious  
memory & of his bountyvousnes hath ḡuented all the forſet  
p̄myſed ḡnted f'unchesis libertes costomes & vſages to the ſeid  
toun of Norh̄t belongyng in as Ample forme as any of his noble  
p̄genitours kyngs of Englond in tymes hath graunted herebefore  
To the meire battis comburgeis & comynaltie of the forſet toun  
of Norh̄t There to be oon maire hedde gou'noure and ruler  
there to be his Justice of his peace Clerke of his m'ket & the  
kyngs Exchecour w'in the f'ncches & libertes of the ſame toun &

[Folio 88b.]

<sup>25</sup> John Goldwyer's name does not appear amongst those of the mayors of the town; he probably took the place of Robert Butler, during part of 1495-6.

borough of Norht & the þcyncts of the same And there in the kyngs absence to rewle goinen all the inhabitaunts & dwellers in the same according to the lawes & frcustomes of the seid toun of Norht And moreoþ eul man that is inhabitaunt & enþcheted ther is sworne vpon a boke before the maire for the tyme beyng that he shalbe steithfull & lawfull to our souayne lord the kyng of Englund & to his heires kyngs of englund & Justifiable to the maire & baillies of the seid town of Norht that now be hath ben & shalben the frcustomes & viȝes of the <sup>for perjury  
& disobedience  
to the mayer.</sup> same toun shall maynteyn sustene to my power as more largely it Apperith at the takyng of his othe &c And there what pson or psones that is þunchesid & wyll not be obedient to the maire baillies & meir brethern as is affore expreſſed declared by his othe made he rennythe in piure & is wyllfully for sworne vpon a boke and for his piure it is punyſhable & fynable by the diſcrecon of the seid maire & of the advice of couniell to hym sworne to aciſſe levy rere ſuche punyſhment & fyne as he shalde therin by the advice of his couniell expedyent for the fame ffor where the mauer for the tyme beyng of his yere is the kyngs Chaunceler ther to determyn all ſuch piurie Jniury & wrong affore hym don or vted And if any pſone or pſones maliciouſly of rancor malys or evyll wyll do make Any confederacy & conuenticleſ breche or impedyment of Justice agenſt the maire baillies & the couniell of the ſeid toun of Norht by worde dede or writyng Rennythe in dempuyte & damage to Agrevous Amcyment as shalbe adiuged by the advice of the maire the King's Justices of his peace & the Kings crowners w'in the ſeid (town) of Norht for his Jmagynaçon & ſympyle demeanour as ſhall accorde with Justice in this behalfe in teſifyeng of the p'myſſeſ <sup>286</sup>

JN DEI NOIE AMEN. Tenore  
præſencæ pateat vniuersis qd cum  
int' mag' m Rog' m de Bowdone  
ppetū vicar

In the name of God Amen [Folio 39a.]  
By the tenor of these presents  
let it be clear to all that whereas  
between Master Roger de Bow-  
done <sup>287</sup> perpetual Vicar of the

<sup>286</sup> Breaks off in the middle of a page, space being left on two leaves which has been partially filled up in a later hand with the three next entries.

<sup>287</sup> Master Roger de Bowdon became incumbent of Hardingstone in April, 1281, and immediately took proceedings against the inhabitants residing in the Liberty of Saint Leonard's, to recover his tithe.—Bridges' Northamptonshire, vol. i., p. 363.

pochialis ecclē de Hardyngsthorn  
Actorem ex pte vna Ac Maſtē &  
frēs lepiōz Sēi Leonardi ext·  
Norhampton reos ex Alta sup  
oblatonib; manualib; et minutis  
decimis def̄ hortis habitant̄ in  
fra ēminatōm eiuldem domus Sēi  
leonardi in dēa pochia de har-  
dyngsthorn Site . quas idem vi-  
carius ad se de iure cōi aſſeruit  
ptioe pte alta illas ad Capellam  
Sēi leonardi ex longissima con-  
ſuetudine ſpectare debere in  
contrium aſſerente . coram nob̄  
Olyuero pmiffione diuina Lincoſij  
Epo auc̄te ordinaria cognoscen-  
tib; queſtio ūteret . tandem post  
Aliqua litis cōtamina

pariſh church of Hardingſtone  
plaintiff of the one part and the  
master and brothers of the lepers  
of Saint Leonard without North-  
ampton defendants of the other  
part concerning the manual ob-  
lations and the ſmall tithes of gar-  
dens of the inhabitants within the  
boundary of the ſame house of  
Saint Leonard in the ſaid parish  
of Hardingſtone ſituated which  
the ſame Vicar has claimed to  
belong to him by common law  
while the other party claims to  
the contrary that they ought to  
pertain to the chapel of Saint  
Leonard from very long custom  
before us Oliver<sup>223</sup> by Divine  
permiſſion Bishop of Lincoln en-  
quiring by our authority ordinary  
the queſtion was diſcussed At  
length after ſundry legal con-  
tentions

[Folio 86b.] ORDINACIO FACT TEMPE JOHIS BROWNE MAIOR ANNO TERCIÓ R<sup>E</sup>  
EDWARDI SEXTI

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF JOHN BROWNE MAYOR<sup>224</sup>  
IN THE THIRD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING EDWARD VI

At assemble holden in the Guyhalde the xi<sup>th</sup> daye of October  
[1549] in the yer of o' souayn lorde abouefāide by the faide John  
Broune maior Laurens Manley John Motte Richard Wilkynſon  
Nychoſas Ramb Henri M'eall Richard Lowres John Deightmen  
Anthonye Dryand Christofor Darnes & Henri Clarke the ſaid  
maires brotherne the xxiiij Coburges & all the hole comynalite

<sup>223</sup> Dean Oliver Sutton became Bishop of Lincoln in 1280. He completed the "Angel Choir" in 1280. He died in 1300, and was buried in Lincoln Cathedral.  
This record ends abruptly in the middle of a page.

<sup>224</sup> John Browne was mayor of the town in 1550-1.

of this same towne at whiche assēble holden this act & ordinaunce to stand to thend of the worlde in full strength vertu and effect as folowith

That no fraunchised pson that dothe jnjoye the libertes of this towne or her c̄ts shall frome henysfourth w/out lycens of the mayor for the tyme beyng Implede another being lykewise fraunchised in anye of the kynge maiestyes courts out of this towne vpon the Payne for eu'y tyme so offendyng contrarie to this act to forsett hees & paye to the pfectt of the chamber of the toun xls of lafull monye of englande w/out anye favour

**ORDINACIÓ P PORCIBZ TEMPE DICT JOHIS BROUNE MAIOR**

[Folio 90a.]

**[ORDINANCE MADE FOR PIGS IN THE TIME OF THE  
SAID JOHN BROWN MAYOR]**

At assēble holden the xij<sup>th</sup> daye of October [Friday, 11th October, 1549] in the said iij<sup>th</sup> yer of o' saide sou'ayne lorde kynge Edwarde the Sixte &c by the saide John Broune maier & his brethrin the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> & comburgess & the body of the same towne at which assēble this acte folowyng was ordeyned & stablisshide to raymayne in Recorde amongst other

That ffrome and after the feast of Saynt Thomas thappostell next comyng no fraunchysed pson of this towne brewers & bakers except shall kepe vpon the comynes of this towne or put befor the commū herde called the hogheard but iiiij hogge & the brewers & bakers vj vpon Payne for eu'y hogge so taken ether before the heard or vppon the commus the owner therof to paye vnto the chamber of this sayd towne as comine trealu to the same ij<sup>th</sup> as often as the be taken with suche default ether by informacon or otherwyse with oute redemcon

This ordiūnce is made as well for hoges sowes and wepninge pige

**[A RELEASE TO EDMUND FREARS FROM ALL MUNICIPAL OFFICES]**

Uniu'ris Xpi fidelibus ad quos  
p'sentes tre puen'nt Henricus  
Neale

To all the faithful servants  
of Christ to whom these present  
letters shall come Henry Neale <sup>290</sup>

[Folio 90b.]

<sup>290</sup> Henry Neale was mayor of the town in 1540-1, and 1553-4.

lying fany  
of hogges upon  
the common.

maior ville Northon & tota cōitas  
eūidem ville Saltm in dño Sem-  
piternam Cū Edmunds Frears  
pewterar Comburgensj noster  
p̄ditus in Subsidiu et Releua-  
meñ diuſorū cuſtagioz ac p Sust-  
tentatione & factura pauimento  
in villa p̄dicta iam p nos tandem  
facto decem libras bone et le-  
galis monete Anglie nobis dedit  
& contulit in effectū Nou'itis  
nos p̄fatos maiorem et cōitatem  
debitam recompensatoem dicto  
Edmundo Frears pewterer quantū  
in nobis est fieri volentes cōces-  
ſiſe eidem Edmundo p pntes qd  
ip̄e ad officiū maioratus baliui  
comitabulariſ canſlarij ville p̄dicta  
p eadem villa p nos & Succeſ-  
fores n̄os burgenses dice ville  
nullo modo imposterū Sit electus  
Sed quod idem Edmūdus de eis-  
dem ac de oībus alijs officijs  
dicte ville p̄tinens imp̄petuū Sit  
quietus & omnino exoneratus per  
p̄ntes In cuius rei testiōniū Sigil-  
lū officij maioratus et Sigillū  
num coīnune p̄ntibus fecimus ap-  
poni Datā apud Northon vice-  
ſimo die Junij anno regni Ed-  
wardi Sexti Dei ḡra

mayor of the town of Northamp-  
ton and the whole commonalty of  
the same town sends greeting  
in the Lord for ever Whereas  
Edmund Frears pewterer our  
fellow-burgess disposed towards  
the help and relief of divers  
costs and for the sustaining and  
making the pavement in the town  
aforesaid now at last made by us  
has given to us ten pounds of  
good and lawful money of Eng-  
land and has bestowed it for the  
purpose You must know that  
we the aforesaid mayor and com-  
monalty wishing that due recom-  
pense should be made to the said  
Edmund Frears pewterer as far  
as we can have granted to the  
same Edmund by these presents  
that he shall under no circum-  
stances hereafter be elected to  
the office of mayor bailiff con-  
stable or chamberlain of the  
town aforesaid for the same town  
by us and our successors bur-  
gesses of the said town But that  
the same Edmund shall be for  
ever quit and altogether exonerated  
by these presents from the  
same and all other offices belong-  
ing to the said town In witness  
whereof we have caused to be  
placed on these presents the  
seal of the office of mayor and  
our common seal Dated at  
Northampton the 20th day of  
June [1553] in the seventh year  
of the reign of King Edward  
the Sixth by the grace of God

Anglie & frauncie Regē fidei  
deffensor et in terra Ecclie Anglī  
et Hibernie Sup̄mi capits Septimo

of England and France King  
Defender of the Faith and upon  
earth Supreme Head of the  
Church of England and Ireland

<sup>21</sup> Hit is to be conceyvyd and remembrid that of olde tyme  
dewe and Accustomyd eu<sup>y</sup> toune tyȝte owte to be A Cartefull  
and A Carte lode. And so eu<sup>y</sup> carte so to be charged owith to  
be a tonne tyȝte that is x<sup>c</sup>x<sup>e</sup>. After v<sup>ii</sup> and xij for the hundre &c

[Folio 91a.]

And so firste to begynne that where A botell of haye weye  
but. ij li. after that rate. The ostiller shall wynne in the hundrid of  
the cartefull. howeloo evir he bye hit. And so of eu<sup>y</sup> hundred  
he shall make. ijs iiijd. And so that lode and Cartefull be this  
weight so weyn owte and made shalbe of the Cartefull. Astur  
the rate beforeseide xlvis viijd.

Allio Astir the Rate of ijli and A halfe the botell of haye  
so made The hundrid xxij. And yete in eu<sup>y</sup> hundrid ijli weight  
in supplusage that is xl li in the lode. And that is in money  
vijjd. And to Astir that Rate he shall make of the Cartefull  
xxxvijs iiijd.

Moreou astir the Rate of ijli the botell of haye so made the  
hundrid is xvij. And so yete in eu<sup>y</sup> hundrid in supplusage of  
weyght in the hole lode xl ii weight that is vjd. And so the  
botell o haye of ijli Astir that rate shall make xxxs. vjd. And  
yete ovir that in the hole lode in supplusage iiiij li of weight

[Folio 91b.]

Moreou the Botell haye of ijli and Abalſe the hundrith con-  
teynith xvj And in eidy hundrid so meche. And so the botell of  
haye be the Osteler made the lode is xxvjjs viijd

Moreou the Botell haye of iiiij li the hundrid therinne con-  
teynyth xiiijd And so the botell of heye of iiiij li conteynyth in  
the cartefull xxiijs iiijd.

<sup>21</sup> A folio has been cut out before this page and the handwriting of the first  
part of the book recommences here.

Allso the Botell of haye of iiiij*l* & Ahalse the hundrid conteynth xijd And so in eu<sup>y</sup> hundred so meche. And yete is in eu<sup>y</sup> hundred insupplusag iiiij*l* of haye The whiche drawith to iiiij*l* of haye And that is ixd. And so the botell of iiiij*l* & halfe Astyr the rate makyth xxs ixd ob

Moroū the botell of haye of vii the hundred drawith to xjd And yete insupplusage in eu<sup>y</sup> hundred ij*l* And that extendith to xl*l* of haye. That is astir the Rate in the hole lode iij*l* And so the botell of v*l* of haye drawith in the lode xviijs viijd.

[Folio 92a.] Allso the botell of haye of v*l* and Ahalse the hundrid drawith to xd. And so yete in suppliage ij*l* of haye the which extendith to xl*l* in the hole astir the rate before rehersid to iijd ob And yete more ovir j*l* And Ahalse of haye insupplusage. And astir the rate the Cartefull xvjs xjd ob

Moreovir the botell of haye of v*l* contenyth in the hundred ixd And yete in the suppliage in the hundred iiiij*l* so that extendith iiiij*l* of haye in the hole that is vjd ob. And yete insurplusage Abofe that in haye ij*l* not recouyd. And so the cartfull Astir that rate the hole lode xvs vjd ob

Moreovir the botell hay of v*l* and Ahalse is viijd ob and yete insupplusage in eu<sup>y</sup> hundred .j*l* and Ahalse And so that extendith in the hole to xxx*l* of haye and that astir the rate is iijd. And yete insupplusage iiiij*l* of haye And so astir the rate A cartfull xiiijs iiijd

Moroū the bottell hay of vij*l* the hundred conteynth vij*l* the whiche extendeth vnto Astir the Rate before Rehersid the Cartfull of hay to xiijs iiijd<sup>212</sup>

[Folio 93a.]

### JNQUISI<sup>O</sup> SCDM STATUTU WINTON

[INQUISITION ACCORDING TO THE STATUTE OF WINCHESTER<sup>213</sup>]

#### MILLNERS

ffyrste the Assis of the Miller is that he shall haue noo man<sup>9</sup>

<sup>212</sup> A few scribbled words in a later hand follow here on folio 92b.

<sup>213</sup> This inquisition is not according to the statute of Winchester, 13th Edward I., but it appears to be an extended version of the later Ordinance for Bakers and others, of later date.

Mesurys at his mylle but yf they be syed and sealed Accordingyng w<sup>t</sup> the kynge standarde . And he to haue of eu<sup>y</sup> Bushell of Whete . A . quarte for the gryndyng . And yf he sette hit Another for the settynge . And he shall haue of A bushell of malte A pynte for the gryndyng . And yf he sette hit Another for the settynge . And that he water noo manrys Corne to yesse the worse for the better . Nor he shall haue noo hoggys geſe ne dukkeys at his mylle . Nor man<sup>r</sup> of pultre but . iij . hennys & A cokke . And yf he doo the cont<sup>r</sup>ie of any of theſe his fyne is at eu<sup>y</sup> tyme xld . And yf he wylnot be ware by . ij . warnynge the . iij . tyme he to be Juged to the pylorye &c

## BAKERS

The Aſis of a baker is . vjd . hyng and vjd . lowyng in the price of A quarter Whete . ffor and he lakke an ownce in weight of an ob or jd loſe he to be am<sup>c</sup>ed at xxd And yf he lakke an ownce & di he to be amerced at ijs vjd . In all man<sup>r</sup>e brede ſo lakkynge . And yf he doo bake ou<sup>e</sup> that Aſis he to be Jugged to the pylorye

## BREWERS

The Aſis of a brewer is xijd . hyng . And xijd . lowyng in the price of a quarter malte . And eumore thylling to ferthyng . ffor when he byeth a quarter malte for ijs then he shall ſell agalon ale of the beſte for an halpeny And to make xlviij galons of a quarter of malte . And when he byeth A quarter malte for iijs . iij q<sup>d</sup> . A galon iiijs iij q<sup>d</sup> vs . v . q<sup>d</sup> vjs vj . q<sup>d</sup> vijs vij q<sup>d</sup> vijs viij q<sup>d</sup> A galon ale and no ſteether . And that he ſett non Ale Aſale tyll he haue ſent aftyr the Ale Taffers to ſee that yt be good and Abull . And as ofte as he doyth the contrye he is to be Am<sup>c</sup>ed at vjd . And that he ſell non but bye meſure ſyed and ſealed . And that he ſelle a quarte of the beſte ale withyn hym for ob . And yf he doo the contrarye to eny of theife . Or and he ſell not aftyr the price of malte he is to be Am<sup>c</sup>ed the fyrtie tyme xijd the ſeconde tyme xxd . And yf he wylnot beware by ij warnynge the iij<sup>do</sup> tyme he to be Jugged to the Cukkyng ſtole And aftyr to the Pelorye &c

[Folio 91b.]

## BOCHERS

The Aſis of A Bocher is that he ſhall noon excife taker more then of the thylling . jd . but the hedde the gadder the inward<sup>e</sup> and the fete . ffor the ſkynne and the talowe ſhall goo

with the carcas of all suche catell that fedy whole. And of suche catell that fedy whole not he shall haue but the hedde and the skynne. Allio he shall sloe no Bulles fleshe but ys he be bayted nor noo Cowe that is Abullyng ne of great calfe nor noo ewe that is Arammyng ne great with lambe nor noo sowe that is Abrymyng nor grete w<sup>t</sup> pygges nor noo maner corupte fleshe. And ys he do the cont<sup>rye</sup> he to be Amerced the syrte tyme The seconde tyme xxd The iij<sup>de</sup> tyme xld And ys he sell any [de]fectif fleshe he to be Jugged vnto the pelorie &c

[Folio 94a.]

## FFISHERS

The Assise of A ffyisher is that he shall be noon excise taker more than in xjd. jd. nor that he forstall ne regrate no market nor noo hows noo man<sup>9</sup> ffyishe but that he sette yt evyn in the playne m<sup>9</sup>ket place nor that he water noo man<sup>9</sup> ffyishe twye; nor that he sell noo [de]fectif fleshe And ys he do the cont<sup>rye</sup> to eny of theise he to be Amerced the syrte tyme xjd The ij<sup>de</sup> tyme xxd The iij<sup>de</sup> tyme he to be iugged vnto the Stokkes openly in the m<sup>9</sup>ket place &c

## COKES

The Assise of A coke is that he sell noo man<sup>9</sup> fleshe ne ffyishe but ys yt be good and resonable for man both in sethyng & Rosyng and bakyng nor that he sethe roste ne bake noo man<sup>9</sup> mete twye; flor and hit be proved his fyne ys at eu<sup>9</sup>y tyme xld. And ys he wylnot beware the iij<sup>de</sup> tyme to be iugged vnto the pylorie &c

## INHOLDERS

The Assise of an Inholder is that his menures be syed and iced that he sellith his prouander bye. And to haue of eu<sup>9</sup>y buttell puandyr jd wynnyng ou<sup>9</sup>e the m<sup>9</sup>ket goyth And his botell hey of A halpeny shall wey viij ii And his litter firee or ellis to wey A penyworth of horse brede kepyng the A<sup>ss</sup> though he bye alede of hey for xiijs iiijd And A flagot of wode for an halpeny shallie A yerde of length and iij handfull and an halse Abought And a flagot of A penye by handfull Abought kepyng the lenght of a yerde. And he shall selle A potte of iij pyntes of the bette Ale for jd. And ys he be A brewer to sell as [a]nother brewer dothe And that he bake noo maner brede w<sup>t</sup>in hym to selle And

[Folio 94b.]

yf he do the contrarye to eny of theise fysyte he to be Amerced xijd . the secounde tyme xxd . The ij<sup>th</sup> tyme xld . And so forth And yf he kepe any bawdrye his fyne is vjs viijd . And yf he wylnot beware by theise worynge he tobe Jugged to the pelorye And to for swere the Town

## TAUERNERS

The Assise of a Tauner is that he be no excesse taker more then of A galon of White wyne or Redde wyne ijd wynnnyng in eu<sup>g</sup>y galon . And of all other swete wyne . iiijd . in A galon . And that he sette no man<sup>g</sup> wyne Asole tyll he haue sente astyr the Officers of the Town to taste hit And to see that hit be good & Abull wyne and that his vesell be gawged and so merked on the hede<sup>z</sup> . And ther he to be sworne Afore the Officers of the Town what it coste hym . And astyr that to selle . And that he sell not but by mesure syed and sealed . And that he make nor medyll noo maner of wyne within his Tauern And yf he do cont're of theise he to be Amerced the fyrist tyme . xijd . the ij<sup>th</sup> tyme xxd The ij<sup>th</sup> tyme xld And so forth . And yf he selle eny defectyfe wyne his Tauern dore to be sealed yn And to make Afyne to the lorde of the ffraunches And he to be Jugged vnto the forme of the statute

[Folio 95a.]

## BERE BREWER

The Assise of A bere Brewer is that he make no maner of Bere but of good stufte And that yt be holtem for manrys body . And that his vessellis byn of An syse . And that his barellis holde xxxvj<sup>u</sup> gallons his kylderkyn xvij galons And his vyrkyn be ix galons . And he to selle aglon of the besite bere for A peny And A galon Sengylbere for ob . And that yt stand and spurge iiiij dayes at the leste And that he sette no man<sup>g</sup> bere Asole tyll he haue sente astyr An Officer of the town to taste hit . And see that yt be good and Able And that he selle noo maner bere but by mesure syed and sealed And yf he do contrary in Any of theise fysytes to be Amerced xijd the ij tyme the ij<sup>th</sup> tyme xld And yf he selle any [de]fectyfe bere he to be Jugged to the Pelorye iij merket dayes &c

## TALOW CHAUNDELER

The Assise of A Talowgh chaundeler is that sell salte Otemele · sope and other diuse chafer that his weightis & mesure<sup>z</sup> be syed

[Folio 95b.]

and sealed and a trewe beame for when he byeth j li Talough for a ob then shall he sell j li of candyll for jd And that is A ftertyng for the weke & for the waite Another for the warke- manthip. And right soo as talough hieth and loweth soo to sell his Candyll. And he do the cont<sup>rie</sup>, he to be [a]m<sup>c</sup>ced the firme tyme xijd the ij<sup>de</sup> tyme xxd the iij<sup>de</sup> tyme xld And yf his slasse be noug<sup>t</sup> and lake of his weight And selle not Aftir the price of Talough he to forfeyte that is [de]fectable and to be Jugged to the forme of the statute aboveyside

## SPICEZ

The Assize of A spicer is that he haue no man<sup>9</sup> weightys but that they be syed and sealed and trewe beame And that he sell by noo hornes nor by no Ayme of honde nor by noo man<sup>9</sup> subtelte to disceyve the people And that his spic<sup>e</sup>z be good and clene garbeled And that he that doth contrarye in any of thei<sup>r</sup> his syne is at eu<sup>9</sup>y tyme xld And yf he wolnot beware by ij warnynge the iij<sup>de</sup> tyme he tobe Jugged Accordyng to the forme of the statute &c

## WEUEZ

The Assize of A wed is that he wey by no stones nor by no man<sup>9</sup> weightes but yf they byn syed and sealed and trewe beme nor that he sell no manrys thrummys lynyn ne wollen . And yf he do contrarie he to be Am<sup>c</sup>ced and Jugged vnto the forme of statute

## TANNER

The Assize of a tanner is that he tanne no Shepis ledder getys ledder deris ledder horse ledder ne houndes ledder nor that he tanne no ledder to selle but that yt be thorough tanned. And he do cont<sup>rie</sup> to eny of thei<sup>r</sup> his syne is at eu<sup>9</sup>y tyme vjs viijd. And to forfette that is forfeitable And yf he wylnot beware be ij warnynge the iij<sup>de</sup> tyme he to be Am<sup>c</sup>ced and Jugged vt supra &c

## CORDEWENEZ

[Folio 96a.] The Assize of A Cordewener is that he make no man<sup>9</sup> of Shoes nor boates but of good netez ledder and that yt be thorough tanned and thorough coryed And that he corye no man<sup>9</sup> ledder

w'in hym . And yf he do contrarie to eny of theiȝ his fyne at euy tyme vjs viijd. And to forfeitte that is forfeitable And yf he wylnot beware by ij warnynge he to be Jugged Accordyng to the forme of statute &c

#### CORIOUR

The Aſſiſe of A Coriour is that he corye no man<sup>9</sup> ledder but that hit be thorough tanned . And that it be coryed w<sup>t</sup> ſufficient ſtuffe . And hit to be ferched and feyn by an Officer of the Town to ſe that yt be good and Able . And that his leddyr be goode and able well and trewly coryed . And yf he do contrarie to any of theiȝ to be Amerced and Jugged to þ<sup>e</sup> forme of statute &c

#### WHITTAWER

The Aſſiſe of A whittawer is that he make nor Tawe noo maner ledder but ſhepis ledder getis ledder derys ledder horse ledder and houndeȝ ledder . And that yt be made of ſufficient ſtuffe . And yf he doo contrarie he to be Am<sup>9</sup>ced and Jugged Accordyng to the forme of the ſtatute

#### MERC<sup>9</sup> DRAP GROCER SMYTH

The Aſſiſe is that no mercee drap grocer smyth nor no maner Crafty man by nor ſelle no man<sup>9</sup> thyng that pteynyth eyther vnto weight and meſure but if ther weighte and meſures be fyſed and ſealed Accordyng to the kyngys ſtandarde And he that doth contrarie to eny of theiȝ to be Am<sup>9</sup>ced and Jugged Accordyng to the forme of statute

#### REGRATER

Alto the Aſſiſe is that no man<sup>9</sup> of man nor woman ſhalnot forſtaſſe ne regrate noo man<sup>9</sup> of merket of eny maner thyng that ſhulde come therto neyther within the town Nor with owte where thorough the merket ſhulde be the weſte And the pore comens hurt To by at the ſeconde hande . And he that do contrary to eny of theiȝ to be iugged vt ſupra &c

[Folio 96b.]

Sac̄m̄ ſcrutator̄ correi a<sup>o</sup> octauo regine Elizabeth<sup>294</sup>  
 [The oath of the Searchers of Leather the 8th year of the reign  
 of Elizabeth]

You ſhall ſweare that you ſhall well and faitheſſully aſſit the

<sup>294</sup> This oath is written in a later hand.

þchere apointed for the ferche of leyther and wares made of  
lether acording ly to the acte of parliam<sup>t</sup> made in y<sup>e</sup> fyvet  
yere of the Quenes ma<sup>re</sup> reigne towchinge tannars curriors thomakers  
and other artificers occupieng the cuttinge of leyther to youre  
best knoledge and cuninge so helpe you god and by the holly  
contente of this booke &c

Johe Balgey <sup>295</sup> tunc  
maiore et Johe  
Saxby Cōi Clico  
a<sup>o</sup> Dñi 1565.

[Folio 97a.] ORDINACIO FACT<sup>T</sup> TEMPE LAURENCIJ WASSHINGTON MAIOR  
ANNO REGNI REGIS HENRICI OCTAVI XXXVII<sup>o</sup>

[ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF  
LAURENCE WASHINGTON <sup>296</sup> MAYOR IN THE 37TH YEAR OF THE  
REIGN OF KING HENRY VIII.]

At the comon assemble holden at the Guyhalde in the towne  
of Norh<sup>m</sup>pton the xxvj<sup>th</sup> daie of Nouember [1545] in the xxxvij<sup>a</sup>  
yere of the raigne of our souaine lord henri the eight bi the  
grace of god of england fraunc yrelande kynge defender of the  
faith and off the church off England and also of yreland the  
supme hedde by the examinacion and the discrete distreicon of Laurens  
Washington Maire of the saide towne of Norh<sup>m</sup>pton with the  
hole condicent and agrement of his cobretherne the xxiiij<sup>n</sup> co-  
burghesses and the hole bodi of the saide towne That wher the  
bakers of this horow hathe and dothe send fourth bred in to the  
country to a great nuber on horsbak eay daye that which is  
thought to be a great dearthing of the corne that comyth to  
this m<sup>k</sup>ett hit is therfore fully cōdstendyd and agreyd by the  
meyre his brethern the xxiiij coburgensis and the hole bodye  
off this saide towne that from the viij<sup>th</sup> daye of decembre next  
folowing that no baker of this saide towne shall sende fourth  
of this towne in to the countrey but one horse lodyd w<sup>t</sup> brede  
eu<sup>y</sup> daye vppone the payne of eu<sup>y</sup> default so taken to forfet  
lees and pay vjs vijd the one half therof to the meyre for the  
tyme beyng and the other half to the vse and pfectt of the  
chamber of the said towne

<sup>295</sup> John Balgey, or Balguye, was mayor of the town in 1557-8 and 1566-7.

<sup>296</sup> Lawrence Washington was Mayor of the town in 1546-7.

And farther that no myln<sup>9</sup> nor loder to the myll beyng [Folio 97b.] frenchised or othirwyse from this daye fourth to Resort into the m<sup>9</sup>kett place vppone the markett daye wher anye man<sup>9</sup> of grayne is to be solde w<sup>t</sup>in this borow vppone the Payne aforesaid that is to saye vjs viijd the one half therof to the mayre for the tyme beyng and the other half to the vse and profett of the chamber of this towne

And farther that no howholder w<sup>t</sup>in this borow beyng franchysed or otherwyse frome henseforth do suffer anye man<sup>9</sup> of grayne to be sett vp in his howse of anye forynor or other from m<sup>9</sup>rket daye to m<sup>9</sup>kett daye wherby it is thought that corne dothe kepe the heir pise vppone the Payne to forfett leys and paye vjs viijd the one halfe therof to the meyre for the tyme beyng and the other halfe to the vse and pfett of the chamber aforesaide

And furthermore that no baker chaundler nor anye other pionee of this towne carry fourth anye tallow candelle of this towne in to the contrith to be solde vppone the Payne of eu<sup>9</sup>y default so taken that he or they forfett leys and paye xxs the one halfe to the mayer for the tyme beyng and the other halfe to the vse and pfett of the chamber of the forsayd towne

And that no chaundeler nor any other of this towne or of the countryth do sell anye candelle within this towne by the penyworpthe but that that the sayde jd worth shall agree after the pounde vppone the Payne for eu<sup>9</sup>y defaulde so taken to forfett leys & paye vjs viijd the one halfe thereof to the mayr for the tyme beyng and the other halfe to the vse and profett of the chamber aforesayd

Provydid alwayes that no baker aforesayd shall carry forth of this towne but one horse lodyd w<sup>t</sup> bred eu<sup>9</sup>y daye and the saide horse to travele but once a daye vppone the Payne aforesayd for eu<sup>9</sup>y horse so taken

ORDINAUNCE MADE THE TYME OF RICHARD WILKYNSON<sup>207</sup> [Folio 98a.1]  
MAYOR IN THE XXXVIIJ<sup>th</sup> YERE OF THE RAINGE OF  
O' SOU<sup>9</sup>AYNE HENRY THE VIIJ<sup>th</sup>

At the assemble holden at the Guyhalde in the towne of

<sup>207</sup> Richard Wilkinson was mayor of the town in 1547-8.

Northamton the xv<sup>th</sup> daye of October [1546] in the xxxvij<sup>th</sup> yere of our souayn lorde afforesaide by the dyscryte examynacon of Richard Wilkyson mayre of the towne afforesayd with the codystend & agrement of his qui brethern the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> Coburgesies & the hole body of the sayde towne

the typler

That eu'y brewar withe in this towne ffrome hensforthe shall sell xiij<sup>a</sup> galons of ale at the fatte syde for the dozen so that hit may be xij gallons of oldre ale when it is sethed & thane for the same xvijd & nott aboue vpone the Payne for eu'y suche faute so taken to fforefett lese & paye iijs & iijd the one half to the mayor for the tyme beyng & the other di to the vse & profyt of the chamber of the saide towne

And if the saide brewars do sell lese than before mēcyoned ye to forfett lese & paye for eu'y gallon so lakkynge iijd the one halfe to the mayer & the typler to be allowed notwithstandingyng & this penaltye to be levied once in the weke

And further that all bere brewers tha brew to sell shall sell a kynderkyn contaynyg xvij galons of the best beare for xxid & a kynderkyn of the second beare for & that the sel not aboue this p̄ie vpon the Payne for eu'y tyme so offendyng to forefett lese & paye iijs iijd thone halfe to the maire for the tyme beyng & the other halfe to thuse and pſett of the chamber aforsaide

And if the said beare brewer do not sell so manye galons for the kynderkyn that then for ev'y galon soled out to forfett lese & paye iijd thone halfe to the mayer & the typler to be allowed notwithstandingyng

[Folio 99a.]

JURAMENTA H̄OIS ADMISS IN LIBTATEM  
[THE OATHS OF A MAN ADMITTED INTO THE LIBERTY.]

Ye shall swere that ye shall be good true and lauffull vnto owre souayne lord kinge henrye of englond and to his heires kynges obediens and obediens vnto the mayre and bailieſſe that now be and shall be off this borouge in all thinge lawiull of nor thoon The franchises customes and viages theroff ye shall mayntain And the borouge kepe harmeleſſe in that you is Alo

ye shall be contriutarye in all maner off charge w'yn this burgh As sumons watches contriutions taskes tellagies lott and skot bere you pte as a other ffreman shall ye shall colour no foreyn goodes wherby the kyng myght leefe his custom or his avauntage <sup>298</sup> (Ye shall kepe the kinge peace in your own p'one) ye shall knowe no gaderyng conventicles nor conspyrocies made ageynyt the peace But you shall warne the mayour theroff or his mynysters and set yt to youre power All theise poyntes and articles well & trewlye ye shall hold and kepe acordinge to the lawes vñfages and customes off this borrough to ye vtermost off yo powre So helpe you god and holy dome and the contents off that book

MEMORANDUM at a Counsell holden at the Guyhalde of the town of Norhampton the xx<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill [1510] the Reynge of kyng Hen̄ the viij<sup>th</sup> after the Conquest the syrt by the diſcretion and Counsell of John Parvyn <sup>299</sup> then & their beyng mayer of the same town Hen̄ Humffrey Robard Shefford John Wattis John Smyth Richarde Cryipe John Saye & John Saxbye late mayours of the same town for many and diuerſe vnsittyng langage & ſedicious wordis wiche Wiltm Whitfelde flecher of the same town hath hade and hath ſpokyn to the xlviij p'ones of the same town beyng at a Comon ſemblé holden at the Guyhalde of the same town the wiche wordis heraſt more playnly doth aper & be recordyd in the Regeſter of the same town for to be knownen that whatſoev' the forſeide Wiltm Whitfeld ſeyth by dyſpering of any man<sup>2</sup> man that it ſhulde be takyn for no trouth nor for non effect

IN PRIMIS he ſeid that their waſe a writ wiche he callyd a writ dormond and it waſe made by the advyſe & aſſent of master Richard Empſon & no other of kyngis counſell knowyng therof & he ſaith that it is of no effecte but as a forgyd thyng and of no Auctorite wiche wordis wer as miche as in hym is to haue ſett all this Boroghe at a great Inconuenyence and trobull & yet is except good Reformacion be bad therfor

<sup>298</sup> The line "Ye shall kepe the kinges peace in your own persone" has been struck through in the *Liber*.

<sup>299</sup> John Parvin was mayor of the town in 1510-1 and 1525-6.

J̄TM he sayth that their is nother the maier nor noon of his brethern shall haue of hym nother sewt nor ſuice and as for metyng with the maier he woll not do his dewtey nother to hym nor yet to the kyngis Armyſ but thus he misbehauyth hym ſelue lyke no trew towneys man

[Folio 100a.] J̄TM he threthyth and maliflyth master John Saxby beyng the maier of the same town in xxiiij yer of kyng henr vij<sup>th</sup> and he feith that he woll ley to his Charge for ſuche cauſis whch he ſholde doo in the ſame yer that he wasē maier and he wolde cauſe hym to ſpend xx<sup>d</sup> powns therfor morou the ſeid W̄l̄m hath compleyned to my lordie Dakers of the ſame M John Saxby & informyd hym that he wolde not alowe ſuch certificatt nor writyng as cam owȝt of þe North for record of ſuche pſonis as wer preſentis at the kyngis lettis for ſcottis moreou he ſeith the ſame ſeafon M John Saxby beyng maier & kepyng the kyngis court within the ſame borowgh ſhulde kepe Robyn Whoode court

J̄TM now of late he hath had ſedicious langage a yenſt man<sup>2</sup> W̄l̄m Cutler ſ̄gant woofe ſolle god pdon which wordis wer thus he ſeid that if the forſeid M W̄l̄m Cutler had lyved he wolde haue handild hym ſo that he ſhuld haue had the worse ende of þe ſtaffe he ſaith he wolde haue fond a meayn to haue gotten a lett<sup>r</sup> of the forſeid W̄l̄m Cutlers owen hond writyng & when he had gotten it he wolde haue ſowgt ynglond but he wold a fond a nother man that ſholde haue writyn like þ<sup>r</sup> ſame hond & then he wold haue forgid a lett<sup>r</sup> in þ<sup>r</sup> wiſe lett<sup>r</sup> he wold haue put in treason ayenſt þ<sup>r</sup> kyng and this ſame lett<sup>r</sup> ſhould haue byn caſte in to the kyngis chamber and then maſter W̄l̄m cutler to haue ſtonde at his own Joberdey &c

[Folio 100b.]

### SACR̄M MAGRI ARTIS TELLATAR

[OATH FOR THE MASTER OF THE TILERS' CRAFT]

Ye ſhall in your Crafte called Hillyars and ſklaters Crafte w'in the Toun of Norhampton dewly and trewly ferche and ouſee All thoſe pſones that occupyen hillyars Crafte that they ſhall doo trewly in there occupacon their warke & trewe ſtuffe ſufcianly w'owte defawde deſtravde or gyle by the oūlyght of the maſter's for the tyme. And that the ſeide maſters ſoo choſen &

electe And to make ther othe before the meire in the Guyhalde  
 And Also that ther shall noo man of that occupacon occupy the  
 seide Crafte in the seide Toun Butte the maisters of the seide  
 crafte do certifie & make Relacon to the meire forth with  
 whethir the partie or partyes be sufficient & Able psones to doo  
 mennys werke trewly And furthermore that pson or psones of  
 that occupacon to take noo man<sup>o</sup> of warke in greate vnto the  
 tyme he be A ffranchised & sworn That then ye shall presente  
 hym or theym that dothe the contrary to the meyre As often  
 as they soo be founde offendyng what he trespassith w'oute Any  
 conceitlment in any parte therof So god me helpe & All Seyntes  
 & be this boke

<sup>300</sup> sic ex consensu totius Artis electos & pfect idem plentar sub pe<sup>a</sup>  
 xx<sup>ii</sup> den<sup>ioz</sup> &c

Hec statuta p Gar-  
 dianos in<sup>i</sup>pius nō-  
 atos A maiore & eius  
 contilio fuerunt petita  
 die lune px post s̄m  
 Conē virḡis Glriose &  
 concessa &c Gardiani  
 pdica peten<sup>l</sup>  
 Et die Iouis px post s̄m conui<sup>l</sup>  
 S̄i Pauli suit Robtus Rovs an-  
 dict exon<sup>atus</sup> A supus pdict &  
 loco ipius Roberti suit Thom<sup>m</sup>  
 Bury Sherman ad idem onus

so chosen and appointed by the  
 consent of the whole craft there  
 to present under a penalty of 20  
 pence &c

These statutes by  
 the guardians below  
 named from the mayor  
 and his council were  
 demanded on Monday  
 next after the feast of  
 the Conception of the  
 Glorious Virgin [8th  
 December] and gran-  
 ted &c the guardians  
 demanding the afore-  
 said

Richard  
 Flours  
 Robert  
 Rovis

And on Thursday next after the  
 feast of the conversion of Saint  
 Paul [25th January] Robert  
 Rovis before said was exonerated  
 by the high officers aforesaid  
 and in the place of that Robert  
 Thomas Bury Sherman was elect-

[Folio 201a.]

<sup>300</sup> The ordinance of this folio commences abruptly, a leaf or leaves having  
 been omitted in binding.

etus p maiorem Admiss<sup>o</sup> ad pdic-  
tos defect siqui sunt cū Riō  
flours pdic supuidende vsq; sū  
scī Michis px seqūs & ad hoc  
Jurat

ed to the same duty by the  
Mayor admitted to supervise  
the abovenamed deficiencies (if  
any) with Richard Floures above  
named until the feast of Saint  
Michael next following and sworn  
to the same

[Folio 102b.]    TEMPE RIČI MEYE MAIORIS ANNO H VJ<sup>o</sup> VJ<sup>o</sup> P RETONC  
[IN THE TIME OF RICHARD MEYE MAYOR <sup>301</sup> 6TH HENRY THE  
SIXTH FOR SHOEMAKERS]

First it is ordenyd that all the maisters of Shermanscraft within  
the ffranchise of Norhampton dwellyng shull Ensemble to gedir at  
a serthen day Amonge hem Asigned That is to witte all Sowin  
day [2nd November] at the White ffreris <sup>302</sup> And ther to chefe too  
wardens for the yere next folowyng and pſent hem to the mayre  
for the tyme beyng the monday next folowyng And ther tobe sworn  
to hafe and Receyfe power sufficient to governe and oulee and  
serche all the maisters of the seide Crafte whethir any defaute be  
founde amonge hem or may be the same yere soo next folowyng

The secounde is that the seid maistres for the tyme beyng and for  
them that shullcome in tyme comyng shull hafe pleyn and sufficient  
powere that whan they fynde Anotable defaute in the seide crafte to  
do it to be Amendid by the seide maisters for the tyme being  
shulde do to belevyed os meche mony os the owner of the cloth  
shulde paye to the sherman for theryng of the same vnto the tyme  
that the seide cloth of the same Sherman be well and treuly and  
werkmanly wrought And that the same Sherman so trespassyng  
shall be punyshid be the meire for the tyme beyng that is for  
to sey xxd to the town And other xxd to the seide Crafte And  
furthermore to the maires speauant iijd for his laboure of sechyn  
hym Jnne os ostyn os the seide Sherman is founde in suche defaute

The thirde is that noo straunge man of the seide Crafte be the

<sup>301</sup> Richard Meye or Mey was Mayor of the town in 1427-8.

<sup>302</sup> The priory of the Carmelites or White Friars stood near Grey Friars, to the  
north-east of the town. It was founded in 1271 by Simon Montfort and Thomas  
Chitwood.

day or be the weke wyrking from this day forwarde shall not occupye nor sette vppe any shoppe in the forseide Crafte opynly nor preuely withowte that he be proved Able of connyng & abull of his owne propur stusse to werke with be the seide maisters for the tyme beyng <sup>303</sup>

[Folio 102a.]

The fourte is that euy man of the seide Crafte at his begynnyng of his settynge vppe shall paye to the seide toun xxd and to the seide Crafte xxd

The fyfte is that no man of noon othir Crafte shall mayntene coloure nor supporte be no meane noo maner of man of the seide crafte to wyrke in the seide Crafte . within the seide ffranchise withoute licence of the seide maisters for the tyme beyng vpon the peyne of A Cs to be payed to the toun os ofte os it fortunes to fall &c <sup>304</sup>

The sixte is that no sherman within the seide ffranchise dwellyng from this daye forwarde shall occupye be no maner meane ffullerscrafte for diuerie deceytes of the seid Crafte; nor noo man<sup>2</sup> fuller within the seide ffranchise dwellyng shall occupye be no maner of meane Shermanscrafte within the seid ffranchise vpon the peyne of Cs to be payed to the toun os ofte os Any of hem be founde gylte &c <sup>304</sup>

The vijth is that what man<sup>2</sup> man of the seid Crafte is Rebell and wilnot obeye to the seide statutes aboue seide be hee Arrested be the maires s<sup>2</sup>ieaunt and comitte to p<sup>2</sup>soun yeldyng to the seyde s<sup>2</sup>ieaunt for his labur iiijd os ofte os it fortunes to fall . And that the seide trespassoure be not delyued from prisoun withoute A fyne of xld to be payed to the toun and to the Crafte xx d withoute any Release for his Rebellyon

The viijth is that if the seide statutes be not obserued kepte nor ou<sup>2</sup>seen be the maisters for the tyme beyng than the seid maisters

[Folio 102b.]

<sup>303</sup> The following words have been added to this paragraph by a later hand :— "in Payne of xxs halfe to the maier and halfe to the craft."

<sup>304</sup> The following words have been added to each of these paragraphs by a later hand :—"halfe to the maier & halfe to the crafte."

schull he punnyschyd be the maire and his councell so that the maires grace be not ffauorably doon to hem in noo wyse &c

Allio it is ordeyned by the seide Crafte that euy howsholder of the seide Crafte within the seide ftraunches dwellyng schall be at all tymes redy to obeye to the wardeyns of the seid Crafte for the tyme beyng to come at theire somouns at any tyme. whan so eu it shall lyfie theyme to calle the Crafte to gedur. ffor any mater that shall be lefull for theym to comyn or purpose for the wele or for the worshipe of god and of the toun or of the Crafte Jnne the peyne of the price of a pounde wax to be levyed withoute any Relefe. But ther be a resonable excute. And that euy shoppes holder shall pay euery yere to the repacion of the torches iiijd. And euy Journeyman that worcheth in the seide Crafte ou<sup>2</sup> xiiij dayes shall pay to the seid repacons of the torches ijd. And the Maiters that suche a Journey man worcheth with shall antwere to the wardens of the seid ijd. If it be so that the Journeyman departe owte of the toun And it oon payed if the wardeyns aske it or be departe And ellis it shall stonde in ther owne nekkys &c

[Folio 103a.]      M<sup>4</sup> Q<sup>d</sup> XXVIIJ<sup>o</sup> DIE OCTOBR<sup>r</sup> ANNO RR HENRICI SEPTIJ X<sup>mo</sup>  
CORAM ROGS BUTTELER MAIOR RICO EMSON RECORDATOR  
IN CAPELLA CORPOR<sup>r</sup> XP<sup>i</sup>

[MEMORANDUM THAT ON THE 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER [1494]  
IN THE TENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VII  
BEFORE ROGER BUTTELER<sup>205</sup> MAYOR AND RICHARD EMSON<sup>206</sup>  
RECODER IN THE CHAPEL OF CORPUS CHRISTI<sup>207</sup>]

Hit is ordeyned & prouyded alwey that no baker w'in this Town from hensforward thalnot kepe no man<sup>2</sup> off Ostery to re-  
ceyve noo moo horse but iijij horse at the mose in the payn of  
xxs at eu<sup>2</sup>y tyme that he is takyn w<sup>t</sup> defaute

Allso moreou<sup>2</sup> that noo Jnholder w'in this town from hensforth  
shall bake no man<sup>2</sup> of horsebrede nor manny's brede w'in his  
Jnne vpon the payn of xxss at eu<sup>2</sup>y tyme that he is takyn the  
defawte

No Jnn bake  
hors bredre nor  
mans bredre

<sup>205</sup> Roger or Robert Butteler or Butler was Mayor of the town in 1495-6, and member at the Parliament held 4th Henry VII.

<sup>206</sup> For note as to Richard Emson see page 312.

<sup>207</sup> "Within the parish-church of All Saints was the Gild in honour of the body of Christ; founded by Henry Gayshoo, John de Geytington; John Horne, and others."

MO FFRM CARMELITAR  
NTE CARMELI NORHT

Id primi motoris laudem  
imobit simplicia singula  
peris motu p ipm cir-  
tinuo & non disformi-  
erice continue mouent  
vnius si destruccio in in-  
si subito sequeret eciam  
oydñ omni Speras terra-  
n mouens ymmo semp  
ipo summo opifice mir-  
qm centrum situatur vt

statuta formola ipm  
mouens immobile omni  
conditorem vnius se crea-  
omia laudarent . Jn omni  
tura nobil microcosmus  
turata . qui ad ymaginem  
iuse centrum cuius est  
circumferencia nusqñ  
ngratulando s'vire pci-  
s est et g'tuite optando  
ante manciparet mani-  
up isto concluditur Qd  
t ipse veritatis qui non  
munciat veritatem in  
icitatis necessitatis vt  
on dominet iniquitas s;

FOR THE HOUSE OF THE  
BROTHERS CARMELITE  
OF MOUNT CARMEL<sup>208</sup> AT  
NORTHAMPTON

[Folio 103b.]

Whereas to the praise of the  
first Mover glorious and immove-  
able all simple things in their  
spheres are moved by Him in con-  
tinuous circular motion and not  
by irregular spherical motion  
lest the destruction of the whole  
universe should follow as it were  
suddenly in an instant and below  
the spheres of all these the  
earth not indeed moving of itself  
ever standing fixed is set by Him  
the greatest Artist wonderfully  
like a centre so that for His fair  
appointments Himself the first  
Mover immovable the Founder  
of all things all creatures should  
for all things praise In the nature  
of all things the noble microcosm  
of nature which after the image  
of the first Cause whose centre is  
everywhere and circumference  
nowhere was principally made  
to serve by shewing gratitude  
and by freely desiring with such  
importunity should deliver mani-  
festly so that it is concluded  
from that That he is a betrayer  
of the truth who does not freely  
utter the truth in time of near  
necessity that iniquity may not  
domineer over justice but ever

---

priory of the Carmelites, or White Friars, stood near the Grey Friars,  
b-east of the town. It was founded in 1271, by Simon de Montfort and  
hitwood.

semp ad di laudem subdat' falsitas veritati hinc est qd Thomas Sale maior ville Norhampton sedis Apostolice atq; impa<sup>t</sup> Notarius pu<sup>cm</sup> sine sue anime detrimente fana intentione mente oculata ppndens [qu] omodo mundo senescēti ipe indies ad pcliua sustinenda set destabilit inclinat . matura . g<sup>d</sup> deliberatione & pto<sup>r</sup> consilio volens di cultū Augmentar atq; cū debita t<sup>n</sup> quillitate religioz iuxta vires honorem souere & pturbatōnem iustitia suadente infra Burgum regiū ppetuis tempib; eradicare penitus & explantare Quocirca ad decorem domus dei & quietem Religioz viro<sup>r</sup> ffru ordinis beatissime dei genitricis Marie de monte Carmeli in pochia sei Michaelis Archili North in manerio reali quondam bone memorie dñi Simonis de Mote forte olim Comitis Leycestrie comorantiū cunctis & singlis xpī fidelib; innotescimus plentiū sub tenore . Qualit Anno dominice incarnationis Mittmo qdringentesimo tertio et regis nři Henrici sexti post conqm Anno

to the glory of God falsehood may be subject to truth Hence it is that Thomas Sale mayor of the town of Northampton of the apostolic and imperial see a notary public without detriment to his own soul with sound intention considering secretly in his mind now that the world is growing old he himself is daily inclining to sustain things tottering and unstable therefore with mature deliberation and with the counsel of skilled men wishing to extend the worship of God and with due tranquillity to cherish the honour of men devoted to religion according to his means and with the persuasion of justice to root out disturbance within the royal borough for all time to come and utterly to remove it Wherefore for the comeliness of the house of God and for the quietude of the men of religion the brothers of the Order of the most Blessed Mary the Mother of God of Mount Carmel in the parish of S<sup>t</sup> Michael the Archangel at Northampton dwelling in the manor once belonging to the Lord Simon de Montfort of good memory formerly Earl of Leicester to all and singular faithful servants of Christ we make known under tenor of these presents how in the 1403rd year of our Lord's Incarnation and in the second year of our King Henry the Sixth after the Con-

secundo penultio die mensis februarij ad instantiam & Rogatum Māgri Nichi Cantelowe sacre pagine p̄fessoris Prioris ad tunc domus Ac Conuentus f̄rm p̄dēoꝝ ac alioꝝ p̄boꝝ fideliū cū cetu venabili viroꝝ discretoꝝ videt Johis Wellis Thome Warwike Rīci Wemmys Johis Havle Galfridi Balde Johis Ryvel Thome Stotisbury Johis Hancok Johis Bernhill Johis Baldeswell Johis Bertram Raſhi Pasenham Rīci Wilby Thome Sutton cōis s̄uentis Thome Tyſyngton Johis Launden cōmis etiſi Ac alioꝝ multoꝝ ad hoc sp̄ialiꝝ vocatoꝝ in forma iuris auditis Rationibꝝ & allegationibꝝ viſis q̄ euidencijs & diligenter exaiatis put iustitia decuit declaramus & manifestamus apte qd muri f̄rm p̄noiatoꝝ coñexi nouiꝝ ibm edificati & ante murale seu botras vt ſuppoſitoꝝ ale Australi ecctie f̄rm p̄dēoꝝ ad honorem Dei ḡtrioſe q̄ virgis matris eius ibm eiſdm s̄uentiū Annexa ſunt & ſuunt continue de fundo & de ēencia loci fundationis p̄dēe Eozdm igit' Prioris q̄ eius conſr̄m p̄dēoꝝ

quest on the last day but one of the month of February at the instance and petition of master Nicholas Cantelowe professor of Holy Writ then prior of the House and of the Convent of brothers aforesaid and of other good faithful men with the venerable company of discreet men namely John Wellis Thomas Warwike Richard Wemmys John Havle Geoffrey Balde John Ryvel Thomas Stotisbury John Hancok John Bernhill John Baldeswell John Bertram Ralph Pasenham Richard Wilby Thomas Sutton common serjeant Thomas Tyssynton John Launden common clerk and many others specially called for this purpose in form of law having heard the reasons and allegations and having seen and carefully examined the evidence as in justice was right we declare and openly make known that the walls of the brothers before-mentioned newly erected and built there before the wall or buttress as a support to the south aisle of the church of the brothers aforesaid to the honour of God and the glorious Virgin His Mother who there serve the same are and have been extended continuously from the ground and from the essence of the place of the foundation aforesaid At the special instance therefore of these same persons its prior and brothers aforesaid

[Folio 104a.]

instantijs sp̄ialib⁹ eiſdm concedit⁹  
iſtud memoriale tr̄nscribi & in  
Registerio pani

Hec bylla indentata fca iij⁹<sup>o</sup>  
die Maij anno 14 E iiiij<sup>o</sup> decimo  
int̄ Rīem Burſord & Johem Aſteley  
Camerarios ville Norhamptoñ Et Johem Spristowe ac Tho-  
mam Wiſeman Collectores in  
quar̄cio Australi de quod ſubſidio  
dō dñō Regi conceſſ ad ſexa-  
ginta valectos inueniend⁹ in  
Itin⁹e ſuo coñ Lincoñ &c teſtat⁹  
qd ijdñ Cam⁹arij ad diuſas vices  
recepereunt de eiſdm Collectorib⁹<sup>309</sup>

it is granted that this record be  
transcribed and placed in the  
registry

This bill indented made on  
the 4th day of May in the 10th  
year of the reign of King Edward  
the Fourth between Richard Bur-  
ford and John Aſteley chamber-  
lains of the town of Northampton  
and John Spristowe and Thomas  
Wiſeman collectors in the South  
Quarter about a certain ſubſidy  
granted to the ſaid Lord the  
King for the finding of ſixty  
yeomen in his journey through  
the county of Lincoln &c it is  
certified that the ſame chamber-  
lains on different occasions re-  
ceived from the ſaid collectors

[Folio 104b.]

MATERIA PETEND AD  
PLIAMENT P NORHAMPTON &c

Dand & concedend maiori  
ville Norhamptoñ Burgensib⁹ &  
ſuccelſorib⁹ ſuis imppm omnimod  
ffines Redemptōes amerciamen-  
ta et exitus coram quibuscumq⁹  
Justiç seu maiorib⁹ & Alijs Cuf-  
tot pacis infra regnū Angl de  
Aliqua pſona ſue pſon infra vil-  
lam Norht comoranl seu coñno-  
ratur de & ſup Aliquib⁹ offend⁹ me-  
prision negligeñſ ſfelonijs

MATTER TO BE DEMANDED AT  
THE PARLIAMENT

FOR NORHAMPTON &c

To be granted and conceded  
to the mayor of the town of  
Northampton to the burgesses  
and their successors for ever  
fines of every description re-  
demptions penalties and out-  
goings before whatſoever justices  
or mayors and other keepers of  
the peace within the realm of  
England concerning any person  
or persons ſojourning in or in-  
tending to ſojourne within the  
town of Northampton concerning  
and about all kinds of offences  
misprisions negligences felonies

<sup>309</sup> This ordinance breaks off abruptly in the middle of a page.

transgredioñ materijs queret defect causis & Articlis et omibꝫ illis que ad Officiū Justiæ siue Custod pacis ptinent forisfaciēd<sup>e</sup> atidende vñ Adjudicand<sup>e</sup> quomodo seu ex quacumqꝫ cauſa & ea ad opus & viuū burgenſium ville p̄dēe p̄ solutōe feod firme eiusdem ville leuar pcipe & comitter valeant Absqꝫ Aliquibꝫ extractibꝫ inde in Sēcio mittend<sup>e</sup> et Absqꝫ impeditio Aliquali Et illa fñnes Redempcoes Amerciamenta & exitus quibuscumqꝫ locis sūint forisfact Maiori & Burgenibꝫ ville Northamptoñ qui p̄ temp̄e fu<sup>nt</sup> certificari et Attribui faciant infra mensem px seqū post sententiam in hac pte adiudical<sup>e</sup> pe<sup>a</sup> &c

trespasses matters quarrels faults causes and articles and all those things which appertain to the office of justice or keeper of the peace assigning forfeits assessing or adjudicating in any manner or whatsoever cause and for the sending them to the exchequer without any deductions and without any delay that they may have power to levy receive and commit them to the use and benefit of the burgesses of the town aforesaid by payment of fee farm of the same town And those fines redemptions penalties and outgoings in whatsoever places they may have been forfeited they shall cause to be certified and ascribed to the mayor and burgesses of the town of Northamp<sup>ton</sup> for the time being within the month next following after the sentence adjudicated in this matter under a penalty &c

[CHARTER OF 2ND EDWARD IV., <sup>310</sup>  
10th July, 1462.]



**R**icardus dei gracia Rex Anglie & ffancie dominus Hibernie omnibus ad quos plentes tre puen<sup>nt</sup> Salutem Jnspectimus cartam dñ R nup Regis Anglie Sedi post conquestum fcam in hec verba Ricardus dei gracia Rex Anglie ffancie & dominus Hibernie Archiepis Epis Abbibꝫ Prioribus Ducibꝫ Comitibus Baronibꝫ

(Folio 105a.)

<sup>310</sup> This Charter, which inspects and confirms the grants of 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., 8th Richard II., 30th Henry VI., and 38th Henry VI., is hereinbefore printed in English, amongst the charters on page 92.

Justiē Vicecomitibus Prepositis Ministris & oīibus Balliis & fidelib⁹  
bus suis salutem Jnspximus quandā cartam celebris memorie  
domini & quondam Regis Anglie fit Regis H progenitoris noīri  
fēam Burgensib⁹ ville noīre Norhampton in hec verba Edwardus  
dei gracia Rex Anglie Dominus Hibernie & Dux Aquitai⁹ Archi-  
epis Epis Abbatib⁹ Prioribus Comitibus Baronibus Justiē Vice-  
comitibus Prepositis Ministris & oīibus Balliis & fidelibus suis  
salutem Jnspximus cartam quam celebris memorie dominus H  
quondam Rex Anglie Pater nōs fecit Burgensib⁹ Norhamptoū  
in hec verba Henricus dei gracia Rex Anglie Dominus Hibernie  
Dux Normān & Aquitaū Comes Andeg⁹ Archiepis Epis Abba-  
tibus Prioribus Comitibus Baronibus Justiē Vicecomitibus Prepo-  
sit⁹ ministris & oīibus Balliis & fidelib⁹ suis salutem Sciatis  
nos conceisse & p̄senti carta n̄a confirmasse Burgensib⁹ n̄is de  
Norhamptoū qd nullus eoꝝ p̄tit extra muri Burgi Norhamptoū  
de aliquo p̄lito preter p̄lita de tenuris exterioribus exceptis  
monetaū & ministris n̄is Concessimus eciam eis quietanciam murdri  
infra Burgum & importōka et qd nullus eoꝝ faciat duellum &  
qd de p̄litis ad coronam p̄tinentibus se posſunt disfracōnare ſe-  
cundum consuetudinem ciūm Ciuitatis London et qd infra muros  
burgi illius nemo capiat hospicium p̄ vnu vel p̄ libacionem Mare-  
ſcalli Et qd omnes Burgenses Norhamptoū ſint quieti de theolomo  
& leſtagio p̄ totam Angl & portus maris et qd nullus de miseri-  
cordia pecunie indecetur niſi ſcdm legem quam huerūt Ciues n̄i  
London tempore H Regis Aui noīri et qd in Burgo illo in nullo  
p̄lito fit Meſkeninga et qd hulting ſemel tñ in ebdomada tene-  
ant Et qd terras & tenuras & vadia ſua & debita ſua oīia iufie  
heant cuicunque eis debeat & de terris ſuis & tenuris que infra  
Burgū ſunt rectum eis teneatur ſcdm consuetudinem Burgi Et de  
oīibus debit⁹ ſuis que accomodata ſuerint apud Norhampton &  
de vadiis ibidem fēis p̄lita apud Norhamptoū teneantur Et ſi quis  
in tota Angl theolonum vel consuetudinem ab hominib⁹ Norham-  
ptoū cepit poſqñ ipe arecto defecerit preposit⁹ Norhamptoū  
namium inde apud Norhampton capiat JNSUPER ECIAM et emen-  
datōem illius burgi eis concessimus qd ſint quieti de Brudtoll & de  
Gildwit & de yeresyeue & de ſtotale Jta qd p̄pōitus Norham-  
ptoū vel aliquis alius Ballius ſtotale non faciat has predictas  
consuetudines eis concessimus & omnes alias libertates & liberas  
consuetudines quas huerunt Ciues n̄i London quando meliores vel  
liberiores huerunt tempore predicti H. Regis Aui n̄i ſcdm lib-

[Polla 105b.]

Note.

ates London & leges Burgi Norhamptoñ QUARE VOLUMUS &  
 sumiter precipimus qd iþi & heredes eoþ hec omnia predicta  
 hereditare haent & teneant de nob̄ & heredibz n̄is Reddendo p̄  
 unū Centum & viginti libras num̄o de villa Norhamptoñ cum  
 omibz ptinen suis ad Sccm n̄m in termino sc̄i Michis p̄ manū  
 positi Norhamptoñ Et Burgenses Norhamptoñ faciant p̄positum  
 quem voluerint de se p̄ annū qui sit idoneus nobis & eis hoc  
 modo scit qd predicti Burgenses Norhamptoñ p̄ cōe consiliū vil-  
 late sue eligant duos de legalioribz & discretionibz Burgensibus  
 ville sue & p̄sentent eos p̄ iras suas patentes capitali Justiciā  
 apud Westm qui bene & fideliter custodiant p̄posituram ville  
 Norhamptoñ & non ammoueant q̄mdiu sē in balliuua sua bene  
 reiserint nisi p̄ cōe consilium villate sue vollumus etiam qd in Quatuor  
 eodem Burgo Norhamptoñ p̄ cōe consilium villate eligant quatuor Coronator  
 legalioribz & discretionibz hōibz de Burgo ad custodienda p̄ita  
 orone n̄e & alia que ad nos ptinent in eodem Burgo & ad  
 vidend p̄positi illius Burgi iuste & legitime tractent tam pauperes  
 om diuites sicut carta dñi Johis Regis patris n̄i quam inde  
 uent testat rationabiliter HUJS TESTIBUS ven̄abilibz p̄ribz Joice-  
 ino Bathoñ R Sañ Ep̄is Hutto de Burgo Comite Kant Justiciañ  
 n̄o Willmo filio Warini Radulpho filio Nichi Ricō de Argent  
 Seneteall n̄is Henrico de Capella & alijs dat p̄ manū ven̄abilis  
 pris R Cicester Ep̄i Cancellañ n̄i apud Westm sextodecimo die  
 Martij Anno regni nostri vndecimo Inspeximus etiam quandam  
 lham cartam quam p̄dicus pater noster similiter fecit Burgensibz  
 p̄deis in hec verba Henricus dei ḡra Rex Angl dñs Hibn Dux  
 Normanñ Acquit & Comes Andeg Archiepis Ep̄is Abbibz Priori-  
 bus Comitibz Baronibz Justiæ Vicecomitibz p̄positis ministris &  
 omibz Balliuis & fidelibz suis satt Sciatis nos concessisse & hac  
 carta nostra confirmasse Burgensibz n̄is Norhamptoñ qd iþi & eoþ  
 heredes imppm haent returnū om̄i bruiū nro tam de suūntionibz  
 Sc̄ij n̄i qm de aliis Burgum predēm & libertatem eiusdem Burgi  
 tangentibz Et qd iþi respondeant p̄ manus suas ad Scaēm n̄m  
 de omibz debitis suūntioibz & demandis ip̄os tangent̄ Ita qd  
 nullus viē aut aliis balliuus vel minis̄ nr̄ decetero ingrediat̄  
 p̄diēm burgum ad aliquas districtioes suūntes aut alia facienda que  
 ad eoþ officiū ptinent nisi p̄ delectum eoždem Burgensiū vel  
 heredum suo Et qd haent Insangentes et qd nullus eoþ impli-  
 tet ext̄ muros burgi Norhamptoñ nisi de tenuris forinsecis aut  
 etiam de aliqua t̄nigressione sēa in eodem Burgo nisi sup̄ re ius

[Folio 106a.]

nřm vel pſonam nřam tangente Et qd dči Burgenses non conuincant' p aliquos forinfecos sup aliquibz appellis rectis immunitationis nřsgressionibz criminibz calumpaniis aut demandis eis impedita aut imponendis set solummodo p comburgētes suos nisi de aliqua re tāgente communitatem pdci Burgi & tunc in caū illo deducant' Sēdm libertates suas approbatas & hactenus vñitatas Et qd nullus mercator tempore nundinař eiusdem Burgi cum suis mercandis nisi de licencia & voluntate balliuoz eiadē burgi put fieri debuit & consuevit temporibz pdcessor nřo Regum Angl & nřo Et qd possint diſtricōnem facere infra Burgum pdēm p debitibz suis sicut hactenus fieri debuit & contineat

(Folio 106b.) CONCESSIMUS ETIAM EIS qd si aliqui eoz vñicuumqz in regnatioñ testati vel in testati deceſſerint heredes eoz bona iþoz defunctos plenarie heant quatenus dči heredes ſonabilit̄ monitrate posse bona iþa fuisse dčoꝝ defunctoꝝ Et qd iþi aut eoz bona non contineant' alicubi in regno nřo nec iþi bona illa amittant p abeptione nřsgressionē ſuientum suoꝝ Et qd vti possint libtatiibz iþi a contente in hac carta nřa quicunqz volvint licet aliquibz temporibz eis vñ uon ſunt Concedim⁹ etiam eis qd iþi & eoz heredes heant oñes libtates iþis prius concessas p cartam nřam & p cartas pdcessoribz nřoꝝ Regum Angl sicut eis ſonabilit̄ huc vñ ſunt Quare volum⁹ & ſirmil p̄ipim⁹ p nob̄ & heredibz nřis qd pdci Burgenses & eoz heredes imp̄p̄n heant libtates pdciis p̄iphem⁹ ſup foreſcuram nřam ne quis eos cont̄ hanc concessione in aliquo diſtribuet vel moleſtet Hijs testibz Galirido Gouſſier de Lesiūn & Wifmo de Valence fr̄ibz nřis Henꝝ de Baſſe P̄ho Luuel Maȝro Joh̄e Maniell Wifmo de Grey Walter & Merton Nic̄o de ſeo Mauro Walkelmo de Arderū Petro Eude rard & aliis daꝝ p manū nřam apud Westm⁹ decimo octavo die Januar anno regni nři quadragelimo primo Nos autem concessimus pdēas ratas hentes & gratas eas p nob̄ & heredibz nřis quatenus in nob̄ est pdēis Burgensis & heredibz suis ac aliis successoribz suis burgensis eiusdem ville imp̄p̄n concedim⁹ & contineant' p̄ carte pdēe ſonabilit̄ testant' Concessimus etiam p nob̄ & heredibz nřis Burgensis pdēis qd iþi heredes ac iueriores ut pdci ſingulis Annis imp̄p̄n ad ſeſtum ſei Michlis eliḡe possint unū maiorem & duos balliuos de ſe iþis & ipm quem ſic eleḡim⁹ & maiorem p̄ſentent ad Scacc⁹ nřum infra octab eiusdem ſeſti qui tunc ibm p̄ſet ſac̄m de hiis que ad officiū maioratus ville p̄tinent fideliter exequendis qui quidem major & balliuus nřam p̄

lītatem ville p̄dē tangentia teneant & exc̄eant p̄ ballivos  
 eiusdīm ville temporibz retroactis fieri consuevit Hijs testibz Ven-  
 abilibz pribz A Dunolīn J Wyntōn & S. Saʒ Ep̄is Henrico de Lacy  
 Comite Lincoln Gwydone Comite Warr Octoue [Otto] de Grandi-  
 sono Waltero de Bello campo Senescallo Hoispicij n̄i Witlo le Brun  
 Petro de Tayntōn & aliis dat p̄ manū n̄ram apud Cantuar⁹ vice-  
 ūmo septimo die Maij Anno regni n̄i vicelimo septimo Nos  
 autem concessiones p̄dēas ratas hentes & gratas eas p̄ nob̄ &  
 heredibz n̄ris quantum in nobis est p̄dēis burgensibz & heredibz  
 suis ac alijs successoribz suis Burgensibz eiusdem ville imppm  
 concedimus & confirmamus sicut carte p̄dēe r̄onabiliter teiant  
 Preterea volentes eidem Burgensibz ḡam in hac pte fac̄e  
 vbiorem concessimus eis & hac carta n̄ra confirmauim⁹ qd licet  
 ipi vel eoꝝ antecessores aliqua vel aliquibz lītatum vel quietan-  
 ciaz alquo cau em'gente hactenus plene vñ non fuit ipi tamen  
 Burgenies heredes & succēsōres sui Burgenies eiusdem ville  
 lītatibz & quietanciis p̄dēis & eaꝝ quāt̄ deceſo plene gau-  
 deant & vtant' abiqz impedimento n̄ri vel heredum n̄roꝝ Justē  
 Eicacloꝝ Vicecomitū aut alioꝝ Balliuoꝝ seu Ministroꝝ n̄roꝝ quoꝝ  
 cumqz Et insp in releuatōem ville p̄dēe Volentes ipos Bur-  
 genies ac heredes & succēsōres suos p̄dēoꝝ amplioribz respiꝝce  
 fauoribz lītatum concessimus eis & hac carta n̄ra confir-  
 mauim⁹ p̄ nob̄ & hered n̄ris qd ipi h̄eant cognitōem ōni p̄litoꝝ  
 tam quazcumqz alioꝝ qm̄ alioꝝ p̄litoꝝ quoꝝcuqz infra villam Guybald  
 p̄cām & suburbium eiusdem em'gentiū tenendē coram Maiore  
 & balliuis dēe ville p̄ tempore existeñ in Gihalda villa p̄dēe  
 imppm et qd Maior dicte ville qui p̄ tempore fuit imppm  
 in villa p̄dta & suburbiius eiusdem heat custodiam assitē panis vini  
 & ceruile ac correctoem & punitōem eiusdem vna cum finibz  
 am̄ciamentis & aliis p̄ficiis inde puenientibz in vsum Cōitatis  
 ville & suburbioꝝ p̄dēoꝝ conūtendis Acetiam custodiam assitē ac  
 iūpūnum mensuraꝝ & pondēz in villa & suburb p̄dēis tam in  
 p̄uentia n̄ra qm̄ in abiētia n̄ra & heredum n̄roꝝ Ita qd Maior  
 dēe ville qui p̄ tempore fuit dēa mensuras & pondera supuideat  
 & ea que talia inuen̄it comburi & destrui & alia legalia & iusta  
 deputari & consignari faciat nec non t̄nsgreſſiones quos in hac pte  
 inuen̄it debite puniat & castiget tam in abiētia qm̄ in p̄ficiencia  
 n̄ra & heredum n̄roꝝ quotiens opus fuit & sibi ratōabilit̄ fore  
 viderit faciēt Et qd Maior ibm p̄ tempore existens imppm heat  
 potestatem tam in huiulmodi p̄fentia qm̄ absentia inquerendi &

[Folio 107a.]

[Folio 107b.]

cognoscendi de forstallatorib; & regratarijs carnib; & pīlib; putridis viciolis & alias incompetentib; in villa & suburbis pdēis & sup hiis punitiōem debitam faciendi ac gubuacoem correctoem & punicōem pīmīloz simul cum finib; forisfectuis am̄ciamentis & aliis pīcūis inde puenient in vīum Cōitatis ville & suburbioz pdēos similiꝝ conūtendis Ita qd cīcūs de mercato seu alias minis n̄r vel heredum n̄roꝝ se de pīmissis seu aliquib; pīmīloz seu aliquib; ad officiū cīcū de mercato spectantib; siue ptinentib; in villa suburbīis pdēis nllatenus intromittat Hijs testibus ven̄abilib; pīb; . W. Archiep̄ Cantuaꝝ totius Anglie Primate R. London W. Wyntōn Th. Exon Ep̄is Jōne Rege Castelle & Legionis [Leoni] Ducas Lancast̄ Edmundo Comite Canterb̄ [York] Thoma Comite Bukyngham Anunculis n̄ris Carissimis Riō Arundell Hugone Staff Comitib; Miche de la Pole Cancellaꝝ Hugone de Segrave Thes n̄ris Jōne de Monte Acuto Senescallo Hospitij n̄ri & alijs Dat p manū n̄ram apud Westm̄ quarto decimo die Junij Anno regni n̄ri octauo JNSPEXIMUS etiam tras patentes H. sexti nup de s̄eo & non de iure Regis Angl s̄eas in hec v̄ba Henricus dei grā Rex Angl & francie & Dominus H̄bnie Omib; ad quos pīentes tre puen̄int Saltm̄ Sciatis qd cum nos considerantes qualib; hōies ville n̄re Norhampton p seodi firma eiudem ville annuatim penes nos grauiꝝ on̄ati extiſunt vndecimo die Junij Anno regni n̄ri viceſimo t̄to de grā n̄ra sp̄ali & ob singularem affectoem quam ad dīcos nobis maiorem & Cōitatem ville pdē gesſimus & huius concesserimus p nobis & heredib; n̄ris qd tam quitt Burgensis ville pdēe qui extunc in Maiorem ville illius foret eleginde & Maior existet eo ipo & quāmcitius in Maiorem ville illius sit etcus & pīfecus fūit qumqum extunc [nunc] Maior ville pdēe foret extunc Escaetor n̄r & hered & successoꝝ n̄roꝝ in villa pdēa & suburbīis & campis eiusdem ville durante tempore quo aliquis huiusmodi Burgensis in officio Maioratus ville pdēe statet Et qd idem Escaetor & successores sui eisdem d̄erent potestatem iuridictōem auctoritatē & libertatē ac quecuq; alia ad officiū Escaetoris ptinentia in eisdem villa suburbīis & campis que cētū Escaetores n̄ri ac heredum n̄roꝝ alibi infra regnū Anglie d̄erent & n̄ebunt Et qd nullo tempore extunc futuꝝ aliquis alius Escaetor se de Aliquo officiū Escaetoris tangente infra villam suburbia & campos pdēe aliqualib; exercende introm̄et nisi tantum maior ville pdēe p tempore existens Et qd dēus maior sacramentum suū de officiū Escaetoris n̄ri ville pdēe bene & fidelib; faciend pīaret

Escaetor

[Folio 108a.]

coram aliqua notabili & sufficiante persona p̄textu mandati n̄ri eidem p̄ione sub magno sigillo n̄ro dirigendi et qd quift maior ville p̄dē ex tunc impostū eligendus tempore quo īpe sacramentum suū p̄staret coram Baronib; de Sc̄cio n̄ro & hered n̄roz de officio maioratus ville p̄dē bene & fidelit̄ faciend sacramentum suu p̄stet coram eiusdem Baronib; de officio Escaetoris ville p̄dē bene & fidelit̄ faciend & nobis & heredib; n̄ris de exitib; & reuentōib; de dō officio Escaetoris puenientib; ad Sc̄ēm n̄rm & hered n̄roz respondeat Et qd idem Maior & successores sui tempore quo sacramentū suū coram p̄statis Baronib; p̄starent licite coram eiusdem Baronib; fac̄e possent attornat̄ ad faciende p̄fra sua & ad computande p̄ eis in Sc̄cio n̄ro & hered n̄roz de exitib; eiusdem Escaetrie annuatim put carta n̄ra inde confecta plenius continet Jamq; ex parte dōz homī nobis est datum intelligi qd carta n̄ra ac om̄ia & singula in eadem contenta vigore ac virtute cuiusdam actus in parlamento n̄ro apud Westm Anno regni n̄ri vice timo octauo inchoato & apud Leycestr finito ac cuiusdam al̄ius actus in vltimo parliamento n̄ro apud Westm similiter tento vacua & nullius effectus eiusdem hōib; existunt vt dicit̄ in ipo; homī ac ville n̄re p̄dē dampnū non modicum & grauamen Vnde nob̄ humiliū supplicarunt vt sibi alias tras n̄ras patentes Sibi in hac pte grōse concedere dignarem̄ Nos eo; supplicati in hac parte fauorabilit̄ inclinati de grā n̄ra spali & ob singularem affectoem quam ad dilect̄ nob̄ maiorem & Cōitatem ville illius gerimus & hemus conceilimus iam de nouo p̄ nobis & heredib; n̄ris qd tam quift Burgēsis ville p̄dē qui impostū in maiorem ville illius fuit eligendus & maior existet eo ipo & qmcitius in maiorem ville illius sic electus & p̄fectus fuit qm̄ nunc maior ville p̄dē sit extunc Escaetor n̄r hered & successoz n̄roz in villa p̄dēa suburbii & campis eiusdem ville durante tempore quo aliquis huiusmodi Burgensis in officio Maioratus ville p̄dē stetit Et qd idem Escaetor & successores sui easdem habent potestatem iuresdictōem auctoritatem et libertatem ac quecumq; alia ad officiū Escaetoris p̄tinentia in eisdem villa suburbii & campis que celi Escaetores n̄ri ac heredum n̄roz alibi infra regnū Anglie habent & habent Et qd nullo tempore futur aliquis aliis Escaetor se de aliquo officiū Escaetoris tangente infra villam suburbia & campos p̄det aliqualit̄ excēdere intromittat nisi tan Maior ville p̄dē p̄ tempore existens Et qd dēus nunc maior sac̄m suū de officio Escaetoris n̄ri ville p̄dē bene & fidelit̄ faciende p̄stet coram aliqua sufficient & no-

[Folio 108b.]

Not̄

tabili psona ptextu mandati nri eidem psona sub magno sigillo nro  
dirigend Et qd quitt Maior ville pdce imposum eligendus tem-  
pore quo ipse facrm suu pstabat coram Baronib; de Scocio nro &  
heredum nro de officio maioratus ville pdce bene & fidelit faciend  
facrm suu pstet coram eisdem Baronib; de officio Escaetoris ville  
pdco bene & fidelit faciend & nobis et heredib; nris pdcis de  
exitib; reuentib; de dco officio Escaetoris puenientib; ad Scem  
nrm & heredum nro annuatim respondeat Et qd idem maior  
successores sui tempore quo facrm suu coram pstat Baronib;  
pstabant licite coram eisdem Baronib; fac'e possint attornat ad  
faciende profra sua & ad computand p eis in Scocio nro &  
heredum nro de exitib; eiusdem Escaetrie annuatim Jn cuius rei  
testimoniū has tras nras ffieri fecimus patentes Teste me ipo apud  
Westm duodecimo die Martij anno regni nri tricesimo JNSPEXI.  
MUS insp cartam pdci H sexti nup vt pmittit Regis scm in hec  
vba Henricus dei ḡa Rex Angl & ffrancie & Dominus H̄bie  
Archiepis Ep̄is Abib; Priorib; Ducib; Comitib; Baronib; Justic  
Vicecomitib; Prepositis Ministris & omib; balliuis & fidelib; suis  
saltm Sciatis qd nos non solum magna & notabilia obsequia que  
fideles hōies & burgenses ville nre Norhamptoñ nobis ante hec  
tempora verumetiam magna & notabilia obsequia que iam tarde  
ipi p diuturnam attendantiam & assistentiam psonae nre regie ad  
sua ḡvia custus expensas & on'a impenderunt considerantes q'm  
obrem ipi & p solutōem feodi firme ville pdce multiplicit ḡuatia  
& on'ati existunt vt accepimus Cumq; etiam maior & ballui in  
villa pdca continue a tempore quo non extat memoria extiterunt  
qui diuisas libertates franchises quietancias immunitates ex conces-  
sionib; inclitoz pgenitoz nro quondam regum Anglie & nri p  
fana & condecente gubernatiōe eiusdem ville tuerunt & optimuerunt  
Volentes igit & ob singularem affectōem quam ad dilcos nob  
Wilm Austyn Armig'um nunc maiorem ville pdce & burgenies  
et Cōitatem eiusdem ville gerimus & hemus munificentiam nram  
regiam eisdem Burgensib; in hac pte ḡrosius exhibere de ḡa  
nra spali & exmero motu & c̄ta scientia nris concessimus & hac  
plenti carta nra confirmauimus p nos hered & successorib; nris  
Burgensib; ville pdce & successorib; suis imppm libertates franchises  
quietancias & immunitates subscript Vidett qd villa illa de vno  
maiore duob; Balliuis & Burgensib; sit imppm corporata et qd  
ijdem maior ballui & burgenies ville illius sic corporate sint vna  
cōitas ppetua corporata in re & nōne p nomen maioris balliuor &

Corporat

[Folio 109a.]

burgensium ville illius deantq; successionem ppetuam Et qd ijdem  
 maior ballui & burgenses & successores sui pdci p idem nomen  
 sint psonae habiles in lege ad omimod plita sectas querelas & de-  
 mandas necnon actoes reales psonales & mixtas mota seu mouenda  
 in quibuscumq; Cur aris vel hered nroz aut alioz quozcumq; tam  
 coram nobis & hered nris qm coram quibuscumq; Justic & vocat  
 Judicib; spualib; & secularib; psequend & defendenda et qd ipi in  
 eisdem ptitare possint & implacitare et respondere & responderi  
 Concessimus etiam p nobis & hered nris pdcis pftatis nunc maior  
 & burgensis & successorib; suis qd quandocumq; aliquis maior  
 dce ville p tempore existens infra tempus officij maioratus sui  
 aliquo modo obire seu causa infirmitatis vel aliquo alio casu  
 Cellare seu vacare contigit sic qd dem officiu debite exequi non  
 posse tunc dci burgenses ville pdce heredes & successores sui ple- burgenses  
 nam potestatem iurisdictiem auctoritatem & libertatem ad husteng  
 dce ville p tenend post obitum cellatorem seu vacatorem huius-  
 modi maioris deant ad eligend int se vn aliu de comburgensis  
 dce ville in maiorem dce ville Qui quidem Maior sic elecus seu  
 eligendus sacrm suu de offici maiuator & Escaetoris eiusdem ville  
 coram Baronib; de Sccio nro & hered nroz pftet ad officia illa  
 bene & fideliter faciend obseruand custodiend & exequend ac  
 nos & hered nris de exitib; & reuentib; de dco officio Escaetoris  
 puenien ad Sccm arm & hered nroz annuatim respondend put  
 antea annuatim fieri consuevit totiens quociens casus pdcus evenire  
 contigit Et vielius de habundanti gra nra concessimus p nobis custod pacis  
 hered & successorib; nris pftatis nunc maior & burgensis ville  
 pdce & successorib; suis qd tam idem nunc Maior qm quill bur-  
 gentis ville pdce qui impossum in maiorem ville illius fuit  
 eligendus & maior existet eo ipso & qmcitius in Maiorem eiusdem  
 ville sit elecus & pfectus extunc sit Justic siue Custos pacis nre  
 hered siue successor nroz infra villam pdcam suburb & campos  
 eiusdem ville put se extendunt conservand durante tempore quo  
 aliquis huiusmodi burgensis in officio maioratus ville pdce extitit  
 ac dantes & concedentes eidem maioris burgensis & successorib;  
 suis qui maiorem eiusdem ville impossum fuit eligend plenam  
 tenore pfectiu auctoritatem potestatem ad omnia & singula faciend  
 exccend & exequend que ad Justic siue Custodem pacis nre infra  
 villam pdcam suburb & campos eiusdem ville put se extendunt  
 debite imppm ptinent faciend Et qd nullum Warantatum de sup-  
 sedendo psecuritate pacis sub testimonio alicuius Justic nroz hered

Major &  
burgens  
Corporate

[Folio 109v.]

Custod pacis

[Folio 110a.]

& successoꝝ nroꝝ de pace in Com Norht conseruand assignat seu  
 assignand infra libertatem dēe ville deceſto allocet' nſi nōia manu-  
 captoꝝ & summam in quibꝝ nobis dēi manucapl coram huiuſmodi  
 Justic tenent' p recognitōem suam in hac pte plenarie exp̄ſſant  
 & declarant' vt dēus maior & succellōres sui qui custodiam pacis  
 ibidem tam ex conceſſione nra qm pgenitoꝝ nroꝝ bent debite  
 nobis in quibuscumqz Cuſ ſris de huiuſmodi ſecuritate c̄tificate  
 poſſint Acetiam de vbiore ḡra nra conceſſimus p nobis hered & suc-  
 celōribꝝ ſris pſatis nunc Maiori balliuſ & burgensibꝝ & succellōribꝝ  
 ſuis qd nec ijdem Maior balliuſ & burgenses neceoꝝ aliquis intra  
 dcl villam & suburb eiudem comorantes & residentes fiant ſeu  
 fiat deceſto taxatores aſſelōres ſue Collectores ſeu taxator Atletor  
 ſue collector alicuius taxe quote ſeu ſubſidij aut quindecime &  
 decime ſue aliius taxe impositōis ſeu tallagij cuiuscumqz nobis  
 hered ſeu succellōribꝝ ſris p Cōitatem regni nri Anglie concedend  
 de ſeu in Com in Norht p'dēe nec alibi p'i qm in p'dēa villa  
 Norhampton suburb & campis eiudem put ſe extendunt tñ ſet qd  
 ipi & eoꝝ quitt inde totaliſ ſint quieti & exon̄ati imppn Hui  
 teſtibꝝ ven̄abilis pribꝝ Th Cantuaꝝ & W Eboꝝ Archiep̄is W Wyntoꝝ  
 Cancellario nro & L Dunotm Cuitode priuati ſigilli nri Ep̄is ac  
 cariſſimis Consanguineis ſris Hen̄ Exoꝝ & Humfro Bukyngb  
 ducibꝝ Joh̄ Salop & Jacobo Wilteſ Theſ nro Comitibꝝ Joh̄ de  
 Beaumont & Hen̄ Bourghchier vicecomitibꝝ necnon diltis & fideliſ  
 ſris Joh̄ de Beauchamp Senescallo hospitij ūri & Riō Turniſſall  
 Camario nro militibꝝ & aliis Dat p manū ſram apud Westm quarto  
 decimo die Marcij Anno regni nri tricesimo octauo Nos autem  
 cartas & traſ p'dēas ac om̄ia & ſingula contenta in eidem rata  
 hentes & grata ea p nobis & heredibꝝ ſris quantum in nobis  
 acceptamus & approbamus ac diltis nobis nunc Maiori Balliuſ &  
 burgensibꝝ ville p'dēe & succellōribꝝ ſuis ratificamus & confirma-  
 mus put carte & ire p'dēc ſonabiliſ teſtant' In cuius rei teſtimoniū  
 has traſ ſras fieri fecimus patentes Teſte me ipo apud Westm  
 decimo die Julij Anno regni nri Scđo Pro quinqz marcis ſolut  
 in hanapio

[Folio 11ob.]

Swerendb  
 Ex\* per { Joh̄em Chamberleyn } Clicos  
 { et Robtum Walſham }

THE OTHE FFOR THE MEIRE AND CLERKE OF THE  
MERKET & CHARGE

ffirst ye shull treuly & dewly with all your diligence enquere  
not sparyng ffor kynred ne for affynyte of any p lone but that ye  
shall certysye and present vs clerke of the market ffor the kyng  
of all maner thynges that ye shall be charged to enquere of  
longyng to oure office & kepyng of the kynges councell your  
ffielawes & your owne so help you god and holy dome and be  
this boke

Ye shull enquere if the pylory & the tombrell be strong or well  
repaired or not yf any man or woman be demed thereto that he  
or she shall nether lese lyffe ne lymme but go vp safe & come  
down safe with owte Any pischyng of body

n 1

## BAKERS

Allso of all maner of bakers that bake to the sale that they  
bake good brede and of good bultell iiiij lofys for id And ij lovis

(Folio 11a.)

for a jd and no peny brede but if hit be spokyn for howfolde

n 2

## BREWERS

Allso of all Brewers that thei brewe Good Ale and holosome  
for mannys body And that they sell be mesur ensealed And yf  
thei sell be any Cuppe choppet or thyrndall p'sent them to vs.  
ffor the statute of the grete chartor the xv chapitir vna mesur  
vini & l'uicie & vnam pondus &c One weight and one mesure  
thorough owte the realme of England

n 3

## BUSCHELL

Allso that no man sell be vnsealed buschell or mesur And  
bye be a grete buschell and sell be a leſſe do vs to wete &c

n 4

## BOCHERS

Allso if that any ffleschewers that be called bochers sell any  
on seond fleiscue that is lefte in gobbeſe or in pecis the thorday  
and sell it on the sonday or kyll any mesell hogges or any sowe  
that is late brymmyd or kowe fflesch that is enveled or ewe that  
is wt lambe for theiſe be pilous to mannys body And that thei  
take non exces more than vpon .xjd.a jd wynnyng And of all  
exces takyn do vs witte ffor it is agayne the comyn lawe

n 5

## TANNERS

8 6

Allso of all man<sup>9</sup> of Tanners that be wonte to sell rawe ledder  
 not well tannyd for it shulde be a yere and a day in the same  
 fface And yf he doo the contrary he shulde lese vjs viijd And all  
 Tanners that worcheth ranced leddur for it is contrary to the  
 lawe And the cordyner shall for euy payre shouis so evell tanned  
 or Botis shall lese vjs viijd for it is the statute Anno iij<sup>e</sup> Hen<sup>r</sup> vi<sup>ii</sup>  
<sup>iii</sup>(And that no Cordyner take no man<sup>9</sup> exces for A payr manrys  
 shous but vjd A woman A payre shoue for iiijd This statute was  
 made in Edward<sup>e</sup> dayes the thyrde) And that he sell no shoue of  
 falce leddur And that he do no disceite in kutting of leddar that  
 coryed in waltes of schone &c

(Folio 12b.)

8 7

Also of all ffishers that sell ffyshe that it be not putred ffyshe  
 ne corrupt ffyshe And astir that it is be watred & not be salted  
 Ageyn And that he take non exces in sellyng ther off

## JNNEHOLDERS

8

Allso that no man<sup>9</sup> Jnneholders bake no horsebrede w<sup>i</sup>th his  
 Ostry ne no where ellis for it is forbeden bi the statute in kyng  
 Rycharde tyme Anno xij<sup>e</sup> And in kyng H the iiij<sup>th</sup> is tyme ne  
 no whete brede ne brewe non ale And that he take for a buscheil  
 ootes but ob ower the pris that it is in the market for it is  
 ordeyned be the statute of Cavmbrigge And be statute above seid  
 And p<sup>9</sup>sent hem to vs

## SPICERS

9

Also of man<sup>9</sup> spicers that sell spicerie that they sell be no cor-  
 nette ne be no hornes but be weight Ensealed w<sup>i</sup>th the kynge seal  
 Ne safferon be peny nor be gelle of the hande nor exces

## DRAPERS

10

Allso of all man<sup>9</sup> drapers Mercers And that thei sell be yarde  
 and Ell sealed with the kynge seal and if thei do the contrary

<sup>iii</sup> The paragraph "And that no cordyner take no manner exces for a payr  
 manrys shous but vjd A woman a payre shoue for iiijd This statute was made  
 in Edwards dayes the thyrde" has been struck out in the Liber by a later hand.

p<sup>r</sup>sent hem to vs how many yاردis or ellunys that thei have  
folde for it is agoode fiofet

## TAILLOURS

Also if any Taillour that hath Any yarde vnsealed not  
According to the draps yarde for it is sclauder to þe draps

11

## FFERROURS

[Folio 112a.]

Also that all man<sup>d</sup> of fferrours sell horse schon of viij naile for a  
þd And that he take for jti of rough yron settyn on q<sup>a</sup>

## TAVERNERS

Also of all man<sup>d</sup> Taūners that sell any Corupte wyne that  
is nott holsome for mannys body and that he sell be mesure  
ensealed and ellis p<sup>r</sup>sent how many tonnes pypes hoggeshedes  
that he hath J soulde on such wylle ffor the kyng ought hafe the  
volour so j folde the taūner to preson And the Taūne dore to be  
shete Jnne vnto the tyme that he hafe pdon of the kyng or ellis  
of the kyng<sup>e</sup> stwarde of howfolde

12

## COKES

Also if any Coke rechafe ffleſh or ffyſh bake or sodyn that  
was onys colde and that he non exces take in the sellyng

13

## COUPERS

Also if any Couper make any mesures but they be accordyng  
to the kyng<sup>e</sup> standard As he may Afered be fore the Clerke of þe  
m<sup>o</sup>kett

14

## MILLERS

Also yf any millner take exces toll other wise than be the  
Tolle dyſh ensealed ffor he shulde take the tolle be raiſ<sup>e</sup> and not  
be combell nor be Cantell

15

## WEYZTIS OR AUNCELL

Also yf any man waye be auncell ffor it is forboden be the  
statute and he is a Curſed be the Chirche in Caſe that he occupy  
hem weying inwarde or owtewarde

## OTHER WEYHTIS

16 Also yf any man bye or sell woll wax flax or any man<sup>9</sup> of Au<sup>d</sup>depeyse be bones or stones the which may not be sealed Accordyng to the kynge weyghtes for suche weyghtes disceyveth the kynge people both in byyng & in sellyng &c

## FFORSTALLERS

17 Also of all man<sup>9</sup> of fforstallers comyn to town or to market  
 [Folio 115a.] And lyen in a wayte with oute the town or market and byeth eyther Corne Catell pullett wylde soule ffyssh flesh or any other man<sup>9</sup> thyng And thus be that means of his grete disceynte and encresce in poryng & hurtyng of the pore people. And thus disceynte the riche men and makyng hem to bye the darrer p<sup>9</sup>sent hem vs

## REGRATOURS

18 Also of another man<sup>9</sup> of forstaller and regratour that florstalls and regrates the markette in Townes & m<sup>9</sup>kettes wher that thei gone Aboute not withstandyng ther is in the Town & markette dewe ovre and tyme be the ordynaunce made and sett That no man shall open his m<sup>9</sup>chandyse ne bye ne sell till that owre come And to that entente that all men shulde by after the syrf hande so than comyth thiss florstallers and regratoris to the m<sup>9</sup>ket be fore the ovre and tyme sett . Prevely goyng abowte chepyng and bying be his offre euy thyng that hym semeth good for to doo corne catell ffyssh flesh pullett wylde soule and all other thyngs And thus he chepith and byeth all thyngs And so kepith in his honde That where the kynge people schulde bye at the ffyri hande of them that owth hit . ffyrf so than the pore man muste by of them at the secounde honde and the thride honde thoo that he knowe p<sup>9</sup>sent them to vs

## THAT MAKE THE MARKET IN THER HOWSES

19 Also of all tho men that vse to make ther m<sup>9</sup>kett in her howses and call into her house the people that comyth and wolde come to the market and ther byeth all man<sup>9</sup> of vitaile and marchandise and so ye shull vnderstonde he is A forstaller and regratour of the market<sup>312</sup> (in makyng of the people pore) yf ye knowe eny such present them to vs &c.  
 [Folio 115a.]

<sup>312</sup> The paragraph "in makyng of the people pore," has been struck out in the *Liber* by a later hand.

Also ye shull enquire of all man<sup>2</sup> men that vseen to sende ther men and such as bene or woll bene of their assent to the town or too the markett with ther owne marchandise. Or vitaile that is corne Catell pullett wildefoule ffish flessh milke Chefe Buttur or any other thyng. Anon astir hym silse comyng in to the towñ or m<sup>9</sup>ket chepyng and proferyng for this marchaundise or vitaile as it were not his And thus he be the sotelte and disceite of hym thus lovyng or bedyng for his owne marchaundise or vitaile shulde make the price of all the markett Aryse be a ob or a jd. And thus he forstallith and regrateth the merket Emporeth the kynge liege people and scornyng and mokkyng the riche people the contrary to the lawe and statute made in kyng Herryes tyme the iij<sup>a</sup>. Also in kyng Edward tyme the iijd and so &c Also if any pone bye or sell any man<sup>2</sup> of corne other wyse than by Bushell rasid with owte hepe or Cautell

<sup>213</sup> Also of iij prices of whete the ffirſt the secounde and the thirde takyng iij market dayes Afore this day And the best for the kyng. Also of Barly peſyn benys & Otis and heye for our ſoulayn lordys horse As for his ſadill be one daye & one nyght. A galon A galoun of the best ale. A galon of the best wyne of Gaskoyn

ff<sup>e</sup>

<sup>214</sup> Also ye ſhall enquire of the Stiward or of the Bayllyfs of the town yf thei take Any ffynes or mede for ther luker or ſinguler Awayle in brekyng of the lawe made & fette in kyng Herry the iij<sup>a</sup> in his reigne liij yer be the which mede and Ayayle taken thus wyſe that where the baker or the Bruer brekyng the Affise of brede and Ale ſhulde haſe Jugement the baker to the pylary And the bruer to the Tombrell with owte any redempcion or fyne makynge

ff<sup>e</sup>

[Folio 113b.]

<sup>215</sup> Also if that Any Meir or Bayly of Cite Borough or town ſell any maner vitaill at retayl during the tyme of his office. That is to ſey brede fflesh ffyſh wyne or ale

ii

<sup>216</sup> Also yf that Any man bye or ſell viij boschellis rased and no more for the quarter

<sup>213</sup> The last two paragraphs commencing "Also of iij prices," and "Also ye ſhall" have been crossed out in the *Liber* by a later hand.

<sup>214</sup> The two paragraphs commencing "Also if that any Meir" and "Also yf that any man" have been struck through by a later hand.

Also of all man<sup>2</sup> of Talow Chaundelers that sellen Talow Candell Salte Otemele Sope and other diverse chaffer that his weightis be fised and sealed and trewe Beme And that they putt no flo teys Among ther talowe ne threde Among Coton in disceite of people if ye knows any such p<sup>2</sup>sent hem to vs by name

Also of all tho that occupy ffysshynge in the comyn waters with Any vnlawfull nettis or Gynnes yfe ye knowe Any p<sup>2</sup>sent hem to vs And tho that ffish in the Ryver and fferme it not thei ovght to make ffyne<sup>3</sup> to the Chaumber of the toun p<sup>2</sup>sent hem to vs &c

Also of all the Bakers that hafe synges At ther dorres ffor hit is contrary to the statutes p<sup>2</sup>sent them to vs &c

Also of all bakers that occupy Any milles for hit is contrary to the statutes p<sup>2</sup>sent them to vs &c

<sup>315</sup> Item of all those victailers that have Jnnes & Signes at their dores

(Folio 114a.)

. . . <sup>316</sup> be Assignen to the And thi Maisters And the comyn p<sup>2</sup>lyte don . . . And thou shalte do no man<sup>2</sup> wrong to thy power so helpe the god and all seytis &c

COPIA DE LIBTATIBZ  
NORTHAMPTON

Uni<sup>3</sup>tsis Xpi fidelib<sup>z</sup> ad quos p<sup>2</sup>entes ire pueint Henricus Humffrey Maior ville Norhampton et

COPY OF THE LIBERTIES OF  
NORTHAMPTON

To all the faithful of Christ to whom the present letters shall come Henry Humffrey <sup>317</sup> mayor of the town of Northampton and

<sup>315</sup> The paragraph commencing "Item of all those" has been written by a later hand.

<sup>316</sup> This paragraph has been struck through by a later hand. One folio has been cut out of the Liber at this place.

<sup>317</sup> Henry Humffrey was mayor of the town in 1487-8, 1492-3, 1499-1500, and 1508-9.

ville Comburgenses.  
dāo sempitnam Sciatis  
Baxster lator p'sentiū  
burgensis p'dilēus ex-  
ti ac gaudere debet  
f'nnchesijs ac libis con-  
nobis p dūm Johen  
Regem Anglie concess  
mi sui primo ac p dūm  
nunc Regem Anglie &  
suos nobis concess  
& allocat Que quidm  
unchesie quietancie &  
retudines quas huerunt  
ondon quando meliores  
eas eas huerunt nobis &  
ibz aris p dēm dūm  
ondam Regem Anglie  
dēm dūm Regem nunc  
ores suos confirmata &  
exitunt. In quas con-  
omnes Burgenses ville  
ton sint quieti a The-  
agio & Muragio p totam  
& portus maris Et si  
oloniū vel consuetudinē  
Norhamptoū cepit pre-  
orū Namium apd Norht  
t vltius voluit dūs Hen-  
ndam Rex Anglie post  
tius & p cartam suam  
cepit p se & hered suis  
Burgenses & eoꝝ hered  
eant libertates p'cas &  
nsup

all the burgesses of the said  
town send Greeting everlasting  
in the Lord Know that Richard  
Baxter bearer of these presents  
is our dear fellow-burgess and  
ought to use and enjoy the lib-  
erties franchises and free customs  
granted to us by the Lord John  
formerly King of England in the  
first year of his reign and by the  
Lord Henry now king of Eng-  
land and his progenitors granted  
confirmed and allowed Which  
liberties franchises quittances  
and free customs which the citi-  
zens of London had when they  
had them better and more freely  
are to us and our predecessors  
by the said Lord John formerly  
King of England and also by the  
said Lord now King and his  
progenitors confirmed and rati-  
fied Amongst which it is con-  
tained that all the burgesses of  
the town of Northampton shall  
be quit of toll lastage and wall-  
tax through the whole of England  
and the seaports and if any one  
shall have taken toll or custom  
from the men of Northampton the  
reeve of Northampton may take  
distress at Northampton And  
further the Lord Henry formerly  
King of England the third after  
the Conquest wished and by his  
charter firmly charged for him-  
self and his heirs that the afore-  
said burgesses and their heirs  
shall for ever have the liberties  
aforesaid and prohibited besides

(Folio 114b.)

sup forisēura sua ne quis eos  
cont<sup>a</sup> concessionem suam p<sup>o</sup>dēam  
in aliquo distrubet vel molestet  
Et in sup p maiore securitate  
libtatum ffunchesiaꝝ quietanciaꝝ  
& libaꝝ consuetudines p<sup>o</sup>dēaꝝ.  
Carte & libtaꝝ p<sup>o</sup>dē de huius-  
modi concessionibꝝ libtatibꝝ ffunchesiaꝝ  
quietancijs & libis con-  
suetudinibꝝ de Attensu dnoꝝ  
ſpualm & tempalium in plia-  
mento dēi dñi Henrici Regis  
nunc apd Westm anno Regni  
sui primo tent existent accept &  
approbat & nunc burgensiſbꝝ ville  
p<sup>o</sup>dict ratificat & confirmat ex-  
istunt Quare vobis supplicamus  
quartim p<sup>o</sup>dēum Ricm Baxter  
cum ad ptes vras puenit cum  
mercandisiſ suis emend vel ven-  
dend libtatibꝝ flauchesiaꝝ quiet-  
ancijs & libis consuetudinibꝝ ſris  
fauorabil<sup>t</sup> vti & gaudere pmit-  
tate non ei neqꝝ suis inferentes  
vel in ferri pmittentes Jniuriam  
molestam seu grauamen In cuius  
rei testimoniū Sigillum officij  
maioratus ville Norhamptoꝝ  
p<sup>o</sup>ſentibꝝ est appenſum Dat  
Norhamptoꝝ viceſimo die Mensis  
Januarij Anno regni Regis Hen-  
rici Septimi post conqꝝ secundo

under a forfeit any one from  
disturbing or molesting them in  
anything contrary to his con-  
cession aforesaid And besides  
for the greater security of the  
liberties franchises quittances  
and free customs aforesaid the  
charters and liberties aforesaid  
of such concessions liberties  
franchises quittances and free  
customs with the assent of the  
lords spiritual and temporal  
in the parliament of the said  
Lord Henry now King held at  
Westminster in the first year of  
his reign were accepted and  
approved and are now to the  
burgesses of the town aforesaid  
satisfied and confirmed Where-  
fore we beseech you to permit  
the aforesaid Richard Baxter  
when he shall come to your parts  
with his merchandise to buy or  
sell favourably to use and enjoy  
our liberties franchises quittances  
and free customs not putting or  
permitting to be put on him or  
his men any injury harm or  
grievance In testimony whereof  
the seal of the office of mayor of  
the town of Northampton is  
appended to these presents  
Given at Northampton on the  
20th day of the month of January  
[1487] in the second year of the  
reign of King Henry the Seventh  
after the Conquest <sup>218</sup>

<sup>218</sup> This document is of the nature of a passport, for burgesses of this town travelling in other towns.

dus dei grā Rex An-  
tancie & dominus Hib-  
s Burgensibꝫ & toti  
le Nostre Norht Saltm  
d Norht Comburgensis  
vos in maiorem vrm  
ie p Anno futuro vn-  
igistis sicut p tr̄as vrās  
Theſ Baronibꝫ de Sc̄cio  
directas significastiſ ad  
est admiss Et p̄ſtit  
n de bene & fidelit̄ se  
officio p̄dēo put mors  
o vobis mandamus qd  
lmo tanq̄m maiori &  
rille p̄dēe in hijs que  
atum & Custodiam illos  
ntendenteſ sitis & reſ-  
ſ in forma p̄dēa In  
testimoniū has tr̄as nr̄as  
nus patenteſ Teste Riō  
th milite Apud Westm  
l &c

Edward by the grace of God  
King of England and France and  
Lord of Ireland to the bailiffs  
burgesses and whole commonalty  
of our town of Northampton  
Greeting Know that your fellow-  
burgess of Northampton whom  
you have unanimously elected to  
be your mayor of the town afore-  
said for the coming year as by  
your letters patent directed to  
the barons of the treasury of  
our Exchequer you have signified  
has been admitted at the same  
Exchequer and has taken the  
oath there concerning his good  
and faithful behaviour in the  
office aforesaid as the practice is  
And therefore we command you  
to be obedient and responsive to  
the same William as being  
mayor and keeper of the town  
aforesaid in these things which  
appertain to those offices of  
mayor and keeper in the form  
aforesaid In testimony whereof  
we have caused these our letters  
to be made patent Witness  
Richard Illyngworth Knight at  
Westminster given on the 9th  
&c <sup>(Folio 115a.)</sup> 319

<sup>319</sup> A form of certificate was given in conformity with the charter of 27th  
hereinbefore printed on page 56.

SCIRE FFACS SUPR RECOG-  
NITIONEM ANo 19o H 64

RICARDUS Wemmes Maior  
ville North N. & J A eiusdm  
ville bali. N. subb suo Saltm  
Cum. N. de N xvo die Mens &c  
Anno 1464 &c in Guyhalde ville  
pdet in pp'a persona sua coram . N.  
ad tunc maiore eiusdm ville re-  
cognon & falebat' se teneri W.  
R Jun<sup>9</sup> in decem libr sterlingos  
bone & legat monete soluend  
eisd Wmmo &c inde peul px  
extunc futur post dat p'sent  
heř & exenl suis aut suo cto  
Attorn sub hac conditioe qd si  
pflat Edmundus &c soluat pflat.  
W. ut patz &c put in recordo  
inde confessus plenius liquet  
Precipimus tibi qd sci facias  
dict. E p iijor pbos & legat hoies  
ville pdce qd sit coram nobis  
in Guyhalde ville pdce ad hust-  
eng ibm tenend. tli die &c ad  
ostendend si quid heat vel dic'e  
sciat quar pdcus. W. R. execu-  
tōem dcaz decem libraz pdictaz  
virtute

SCIRE FACIAS UPON  
RECOGNIZANCE IN THE 19TH  
YEAR OF HENRY 6TH

Richard Wemmes <sup>220</sup> mayor  
of the town of Northampton N  
and J A bailiffs of the same town  
to N their under-bailiff Greeting  
Whereas N of N on the 15th day  
of the month &c in the year of the  
reign of King &c in the Guildhall  
of the town aforesaid in his own  
proper person before N then  
mayor of the same town (made)  
recognition and confessed that  
he was bound to W R Jun' in ten  
pounds sterling of good and  
lawful money to be paid to the  
same William &c thence then  
next coming after the date of  
these presents to his heirs and  
executors or to his sure attorney  
under this condition that if the  
aforesaid Edmund &c should pay  
to the aforesaid William as it  
appears &c as is more fully  
clear in the record made in the  
matter We charge you that you in-  
struct the said E by four approved  
and liege men of the town aforesaid  
that he be present before us  
in the Guildhall of the town  
aforesaid at the Court of Hust-  
ings there to be held on such a  
day &c to show if he have any  
reason or can say anything why  
the aforesaid W R ought not to  
have execution of the said ten  
pounds aforesaid by virtue of the

<sup>220</sup> Richard Wemmes, or Wemy, was mayor of the town in 1421-2.

recoḡnonis p̄dēe v̄f<sup>o</sup> Eund N.  
de N. her non debeat Et neas  
ibi tunc nōia eoꝝ p̄ quoꝝ ei scire  
fec̄is & hoc p̄cept<sup>t</sup> Et hoc nullo  
modo omittat<sup>e</sup> Dat in husteng<sup>o</sup>  
ibm ten<sup>t</sup> die lune &c Anno &c

Et oport<sup>t</sup> omnia qd heat  
diem A quindena in quindenā  
& non infra &c

Returnū Robti &c subb &c

Sci<sup>r</sup> fēc Virtute istius p̄cept . N  
de N. infra nōiat p̄ iiiij<sup>o</sup> nōiatos  
&c p̄bos & legales homies de  
villa . N. qd sit coram vobis ad  
diem & locum in isto p̄cept con-  
tent ad f & rec̄ put istud p̄c  
in se exigit & requirit &c

Ad quem diem dēus . N. fēc  
defalt &c io p̄ consider Cuř p̄r  
et bailiffs &c

Et postea idem . N. de N. p̄s  
fait tria brevia de errore cor-  
rigende &c & sup certificat<sup>e</sup> est  
p̄ Cuř totum record cum pcessu  
vna cū tertio bīe & cū returno

recognizance aforesaid against  
the said N of N And that you  
have there and then the names of  
those men by whom you in-  
structed him And this charge  
you must in no manner neglect  
Given at the Court of Hustings  
there held on Monday &c in the  
year &c

And it is altogether right that  
he have a day from quinzaine [a  
period of 15 days] to quinzaine  
and not less &c

Return of  
Robert &c under-bailiff &c

By virtue of that precept I [Folio 115b.]  
have instructed N of N with-  
in named by four named &c &  
approved and liege men of the  
town of Northampton to appear  
before you at the day and place  
in that precept contained to make  
answer and (recognizances) as  
that precept demands and requires

On which day the said N  
made default &c Therefore by  
consideration of the court afore-  
said it is to the bailiffs &c

And afterwards the same N  
of N aforesaid was three briefs  
concerning the correction of his  
fault &c and further this certifi-  
cate is by the whole court re-  
corded with the process together  
with the third brief and with

eiudm̄ sub sigillo officij Maioratus ville Norht &c tempe .N .Maioris & ff .N .bailioz Anno &c

the return of the same under  
the seal of the office of mayor of  
the town of Northampton &c in  
the time of N mayor and F N  
bailiffs in the year of the reign  
of King &c

**FFORMA DE JRROTULATOIBZ  
NORTHAMPTON**

Rotulus memorandoz ville  
Norhampton imppm̄ duratuſ de  
tempe Henrici Humfrey maioris  
Johi Wattes & Thome Beryngton  
bailioz A feſto ſcī Michis  
Archī Anno & Henrici Septimi  
poſt conqm̄ ſēdo vſq; idm festū  
ſcī Michis p vnū Annū integrum

Willemo Sossyndale tunc  
Cōi Clico

**FORM OF ENROLMENTS  
NORTHAMPTON**

The Roll of matters of the  
town of Northampton to be re-  
membered to remain for ever  
from the time of Henry Humfrey  
<sup>321</sup> mayor John Wattes & Thomas  
Beryngton bailiffs from the feast  
of St Michael the Archangel in  
the second year of the reign of  
King Henry the Seventh [1486]  
after the Conquest until the same  
feast of St Michael for one whole  
year

William Sossyndale then  
Common Clerk

[Folio 116a.]

**FFIERI FFACIAS**

Johnes Clerke major ville Norht  
Johi Wylokes & Henrico Col-  
man baſtis libtat ville p'dict'  
Saltm̄ ex pte dñi Regis vobis &  
alteri vrm mando qd fieri faciat is  
ſeu alt' vrm fieri faciat de bonis  
& cataſt Emdudi Swan & Robti  
Morwode de Norht Goldeſmyth

**FIERI FACIAS**

John Clerke <sup>322</sup> Mayor of the  
town of Northampton to John  
Wylokes & Henry Colman  
baſtis of the liberty of the  
town aforesaid Greeting On be-  
half of our Lord the King to you  
and either of you I command  
that you cause to be made or  
that one of you cause to be made  
out of the goods and chattels of  
Edmund Swan and Robert Mor-  
wode of Northampton goldsmith

<sup>321</sup> Henry Humfrey, or Humphrey, was mayor of the town in 1487-8, 1492-3,  
1499-1500, and 1508-9.

<sup>322</sup> John Clerke, or Clarke, was mayor of the town in 1470-1, and 1483-4.

de xvijs xd & p dampnis xiijd  
quos Wittms Muscote Gent re-  
cupauit vs dēm Johem Edward  
p xij &c in plito debi Ac de  
ijs quos idm Wittms Muscote  
recupauit p xij &c vīs dēm Johem  
in plenis plite coram nob̄ p̄fati  
maiore & batis &c in plito t̄niḡ  
Et cum sic leuauerite pdict xvijs  
xd vna cū xiijd p dampn in plito  
debi Ac duos solid pdictos p  
dampn in plito t̄niḡ vt supra  
dict̄ est sine dilatone deliberare  
faciat̄ seu alt̄ vrm delibar faciat  
sub piculo incumbent

Tess<sup>o</sup> me ipo Johē Clerke  
decimo nono die ment<sup>o</sup> Julij  
Anno dñi nūc Regis decim

concerning 17s 1od & for damages  
13d which William Muscote  
Gent recovered against the said  
John Edward by 12 &c in plea  
to be due And concerning 2s  
which the same William Muscote  
recovered by 12 &c against the  
said John in full pleas before us  
the aforesaid mayor and bailiffs  
&c in plea of trespass And when  
you shall have so levied the  
aforesaid 17s 1od together with  
13d for damages in plea to be  
due and the two shillings afore-  
said for damages in plea of  
trespass as is said above without  
delay you cause its delivery or  
one of you cause its delivery  
under peril incumbent

Witness myself John Clerke  
the 19th day of the month of  
July [1470] in the tenth year of  
our Lord now King

## FFIERI FFACIAS

Henricus Humffrey Maior ville  
Norht Johi Wattes & Thome  
Beryngton batis ibm Saltm vobis  
& alt<sup>o</sup>i vrm mando qd fieri faciat̄  
seu vnus vrm fieri faciat de bonis  
& Catallis Johis Adams Inn-  
holder manucaptoris Willi Mey  
mercer de iiij<sup>o</sup> marcas xvjd in  
quibz idm Wittms condempnat<sup>r</sup>  
in

## FIERI FACIAS

Henry Humffrey<sup>228</sup> mayor of  
the town of Northampton to John  
Wattes & Thomas Beryngton  
bailiffs there Greeting I com-  
mand you and either one of you  
that you cause to be made or one  
of you cause to be made from  
the goods and chattels of John  
Adams Innholder the surety of  
William Mey mercer concerning  
four marks 16d in which the  
same William is condemned in

<sup>228</sup> Henry Humffrey, or Humphrey, was mayor of the town in 1487-8, 1492-3,  
1499-1500, and 1508-9.

Curia &c coram nobis p xij &c  
 v*r* Hugonem Wodefall Bower de  
 Norht in plito deb*i* &c p dampna  
 .xijd &c sup Judici*u* ijs Et cum  
 sic leuaueritis p*dict* iiiij*m* marcas  
 xvjd vna c*u* dampnis sup*dict*  
 p*fat* Hugoni sine dilatone delib*a*  
 faciatis seu vnu<sup>s</sup> vrm delib*a*  
 faciat sub piculo incumbente &c  
 Dat<sup>9</sup>

Court &c before us by 12 &c  
 against Hugh Wodefall bowyer  
 of Northampton in plea to be  
 due &c for damage 12d &c for  
 judgement 2s And when you  
 shall have so levied the aforesaid  
 four marks 16d together with the  
 damages aforesaid to the afore-  
 said Hugh without delay you  
 cause its delivery or one of you  
 cause its delivery under peril  
 incumbent &c Given

[Folio' 116b.]

## FFIERI FACIAS

HENRICUS HUMFFREY MAIOR  
 ville Norht Joh*n* Wattes & Thome  
 Beryngton battis idm . Saltm .  
 vobis & Alt*i* vrm mando qd fieri  
 faciate seu vnu<sup>s</sup> vrm fieri faciat  
 de bonis & Catallis Ro*n*t*u* Mose  
 & Witt Whitcok manucaptores  
 Joh*n* Pamplion de Pamplion de  
 Pateshull in plito deb*i* de xvs  
 in quib*z* condempnat*e* in Curia &c  
 coram nobis p defal*c* v*r* Witt Buc-  
 by de Norht &c & p dampnis sup  
 Judici*u* xd Et cum sic leuauerit  
 p*dict* xvs vna cum dampnis vt  
 p*dēm* est p*fat* Wittmo sine dilat-  
 t*o*e delib*a* faciatis seu vnu<sup>s</sup> vrm  
 delib*a* faciat sub piculo incumbent

## FIERI FACIAS

HENRY HUMFFREY<sup>224</sup> MAYOR  
 of the town of Northampton to  
 John Wattes & Thomas Beryng-  
 ton bailiffs there Greeting I  
 command you and either one of  
 you that you cause to be made  
 or one of you cause to be made  
 from the goods and chattels of  
 Robert Mose & William Whit-  
 cok the sureties of John Pamplion  
 of Pateshull in plea to be due  
 concerning 15s in which he is  
 condemned in Court &c before  
 us by default against William  
 Bucby of Northampton &c and  
 for damages upon judgement 10d  
 And when you shall have so  
 levied the aforesaid 15s together  
 with the damages as is aforesaid  
 to the aforesaid William without  
 delay you cause its delivery or  
 one of you cause its delivery  
 under peril incumbent

<sup>224</sup> Henry Humffrey, or Humphrey, was mayor of the town in 1487-8, 1492-3,  
 1499-1500, and 1508-9.

Thomas Hunt Jones Clerk  
 Simon Bruffeld & Wm Milly  
 Coronatores dñi Rege infra lib-  
 tatem ville Norhampton Aſſinat⁹  
 Thome Mulſo & Wm Whitcok  
 Battis idm Saltm Ex pte dñi  
 Rege vobis & alt⁹i vrm manda-  
 mus qd venir faciat̄ seu vnus  
 vrm veniſ faciat coram nobis die  
 ven⁹is p̄x futuſ post dat⁹ p̄ſentū  
 extra portam Australē in le  
 Brigestrete eiusd villa Ad horam  
 nouenam Ante meridiem eiusd  
 diei .xxiiij⁹ pbos & legat hōies  
 villa p̄dēe qd tunc sint idm ad  
 faciend & exequed ea que ex  
 pte dñi Regis ex officio nro tunc  
 & idm eis iniungent⁹ Et qd vos  
 iſpi tunc scitis idm cū ministris  
 vris & cum hōib⁹ p̄dēis sub pictō  
 incumbent .Dat⁹ Apud Northamp-  
 ton p̄dēam vicesimo die mētis  
 Julij Anno regni Regis Henrici  
 Septimi post conq̄m quinto xiiij  
 die Julij

Thomas Hunt John Clerk  
 Simon Bruffeld & William Milly  
 coroners of our Lord the King  
 within the liberty of the town  
 of Northampton appointed to  
 Thomas Mulso & William Whit-  
 cok bailiffs there Greeting On  
 behalf of our Lord the King we  
 command you & each one of  
 you that you cause to come  
 or one of you cause to come  
 before us on Friday next coming  
 after the date of these presents  
 without the South Gate in the  
 Bridge Street of the same town  
 at the ninth hour before noon of  
 the same day 24 approved and  
 liege men of the town aforesaid  
 that they be there at that time  
 to do and perform those things  
 which on behalf of our Lord the  
 King from our office then and  
 there shall be enjoined upon  
 them And that you yourselves  
 be there at the same time with  
 your officers and with the men  
 aforesaid under peril incumbent  
 Given at Northampton aforesaid  
 on the 20th day of the month of  
 July [1490] in the 5th year of the  
 reign of King Henry the 7th  
 after the Conquest July 13th

Vif<sup>o</sup> Corpis &c

[Folio 117a.] VENIRE FFACIAS P INQUISITONE  
OFFICIJ CLICI MERCATI

Johnes Clerk Maior ville Norht  
ac Cticus mercati in eadm villa  
Johi Wylcokes & Henr Colman  
ballis libertat<sup>o</sup> ibm Saltin vobis &  
alteri vrm mando qd venire  
faciate seu vnus vrm venire  
faciat coram me p<sup>o</sup>fat<sup>o</sup> maior &  
ctico m<sup>o</sup>cati in Guyhalde ville p<sup>o</sup>-  
dict die Mercurij p<sup>o</sup> ante festm Sc<sup>i</sup>  
Thome Ap<sup>l</sup>i p<sup>o</sup> futur<sup>o</sup> xxiiij<sup>o</sup> pro-  
bos legat hōies ville pdēe qd  
tunc sint ibm ad faciend et exe-  
quend ea que ad Officiu Clici  
m<sup>o</sup>cati pdci in hac pte tunc ibm  
eis injungent<sup>r</sup> Et hoc nullo modo  
omittant<sup>r</sup> seu vnus vrm non omit-  
tat sub piclo incumbent Daf apd  
Norhampton xvij<sup>o</sup> die Decembr<sup>r</sup>  
Anno rr E iiiij<sup>a</sup> decimo

## View of Body &amp;c

VENIRE FACIAS FOR  
INQUISITION OF THE OFFICE OF  
CLERK OF THE MARKET

John Clerk <sup>325</sup> mayor of the  
town of Northampton and clerk  
of the market in the same town  
to John Wylcokes & Henry  
Colman bailiffs of the liberty  
there Greeting I command you  
and either one of you that you  
cause to come or one of you cause  
to come before me the aforesaid  
mayor and clerk of the market  
in the Guildhall of the town  
aforesaid on Wednesday next  
before the feast of St Thomas  
the Apostle [21st December]  
next coming 24 approved and  
liege men of the town aforesaid  
that they be then and there to do  
and perform those things which  
belonging to the office of clerk  
of the market aforesaid in this  
matter then and there shall be  
enjoined upon them And this  
in no manner must you neglect  
or one of you must neglect  
under peril incumbent Given at  
Northampton the 17th day of De-  
cember [1470] in the 10th year of  
the reign of King Edward the 4<sup>th</sup>

Battis p noia noiata sic Res-  
pondent

They thus answer to the  
bailiffs by names as called

Executio istius pcepti pat<sup>r</sup> in  
quod panell huic pcepti Annex  
&c

The execution of this precept  
is made clear in the panel annexed  
to this precept &c

<sup>325</sup> John Clerk, or Clarke, was mayor of the town in 1470-1, and 1483-4

Henricus Humffrey major ville  
Norhampton & Clicus mercati  
infra libertatem pdēam Thome  
Beryngton & Johi Wattes baſiſſ  
ibm Saltm ex pte dñi Regis  
vobis & alti vrm mando qd ve  
nire faciat coram me pſat maior  
& Clico mercati in Guyhalda  
ville pdēe die lune px futuſ  
post dat pſentiū xxiiij<sup>o</sup> probos &  
legal hōies eiuidm ville Qd tunc  
ſint ibm ad faciend et exequend  
ea que ad officiū pdēum ex pte  
dñi Regis tunc & ibm eis iniun  
gent' Et hoc nullo modo omittatis  
ſeu vnuſ vrm non omittat Et qd  
vos ipi tunc ſcitis ibm ſub piculo  
incumbent Daſ apd Norhampton  
pdēam in feſto ſcī Laurencij mris  
Anno 11 Henrici septimi poſt  
conq̄m ſecundo

Henry Humffrey<sup>126</sup> mayor of  
the town of Northampton and  
clerk of the market within the  
liberty aforesaid to Thomas  
Beryngton & John Wattes bailiffs  
there Greeting On behalf of our  
Lord the King I command you  
and each one of you that you  
cause to come or one of you  
cause to come before me the  
aforesaid mayor and clerk of  
the market in the Guildhall of  
the town aforesaid on Monday  
next coming after the date of  
these presents 24 approved and  
liege men of the same town that  
they be then and there to do  
and perform those things which  
belonging to the office aforesaid  
on behalf of our Lord the King  
then and there shall be enjoined  
upon them And this in no  
manner must you neglect or one  
of you must neglect And that  
you yourselves be there at that  
time under penalty incumbent  
Given at Northampton aforesaid  
on the feſt of St Laurence  
the Martyr [10th August 1487]  
in the 2nd year of the reign of  
King Henry the 7th after the  
Conquest

## VENIR FFACIAS

Henricus Humffrey Maior ville  
Norhampton Thome Beryngton  
& Johi

## VENIRE FACIAS

(Folio 117b.)

Henry Humffrey<sup>126</sup> mayor of  
the town of Northampton to  
Thomas Beryngton and John

<sup>126</sup> Henry Humffrey, or Humphrey, was mayor of the town in 1487-8, 1492-3,  
1499-1500, and 1508-9.

Wattes battis ibm Saltm Ex pte dñi Regis vobis & alti vrm mando qd venire faciatis seu vnus vrm venir faciat coram nobis in Guyhald ville p<sup>o</sup>dicte die Ven<sup>is</sup> p<sup>o</sup> futur post dat p<sup>o</sup>sentm xxiiij<sup>or</sup> pbos & legat hōies ville p<sup>o</sup>dēe in quotit quartio eiudm ville p<sup>o</sup>cipiendo. Qd tunc sint ibm ad faciend et exequend ea que ex pte dēi dñi Regis eis iniungentur Et hoc nullo modo omittatis seu vnus vrm non omittat Et qd vos iipi tunc seitis ibm sub pena in cumbent Da<sup>l</sup> apud Norhampto<sup>n</sup> p<sup>o</sup>dēam in festo S<sup>e</sup>i Andree Appti Anno <sup>if</sup> Henrici septmi post conqm scdo &c

Wattes bailiffs there Greeting On behalf of our Lord the King I command you and each one of you that you cause to come or one of you cause to come before us in the Guildhall of the town aforesaid on Friday next coming after the date of these presents 24 approved and liege men of the town aforesaid in some quarter of the same town to be decreed That they be then and there to do and perform those things which on behalf of our said Lord the King shall be enjoined upon them And this in no manner must you neglect or one of you must neglect And that you yourselves be there at the same time under penalty incumbent Given at Northampton aforesaid on the feast of St Andrew the Apostle [30th November 1480] in the 2nd year of the reign of King Henry the 7th after the Conquest &c

## VENIR FFACIAS

A B & J A C Coronat<sup>o</sup> dñi Regis &c R G & B A battis ville N . Saltm vobis mandamus ex pte dñi Regis qd venir faciatis coram nobis xxiiij<sup>or</sup> pbos & legat hōies de N ad vidend corpus &c apud N . p<sup>o</sup>dictam ibm interfec<sup>o</sup> vel demersum &c Jta qd possunt dicere veredictū coram nobis quis vel

## VENIRE FACIAS

A B & J A C coroners of our Lord the King &c to R G & B A bailiffs of the town of Northampton Greeting We command you on behalf of our Lord the King that you cause to come before us 24 approved & liege men of Northampton to view the body &c at Northampton aforesaid there killed or drowned &c So that they may be able to deliver a verdict before us who was or

uerunt causa morte dict &c  
nabilit<sup>d</sup> diem sibi p<sup>r</sup>ifixam Et  
ton omittatis seu vnuis vrm  
mittat sub piclo incumbent  
decimo die mensis Nouemb<sup>r</sup>  
Anno regni Regis Henrici  
post conquestū secundo &c

who were the cause of the death  
of the said &c on a reasonable  
day fixed for them And this you  
must not neglect or one of you  
must not neglect under peril  
incumbent Given on the 10th  
day of the month of November  
[1486] &c in the second year of  
the reign of King Henry the 7th  
after the Conquest &c

i the assent of Phelipp Edard William V<sup>2</sup>ifile Geffrey  
ston coroners of the same towne Adam Cotesbroke William  
Thomas Staunford Water Pateshall William Euerard Adam  
Adam Garlikmonger Henry Roger John Stratton Wal<sup>t</sup> Caye  
ert Baker and William Sotell to geder with the Commū After  
the forseide Towne are assented in the chirche of Seint Gyle  
orhamptō the Sonenday [5th October 1341] next afore the  
Seint Dionis in the yere of the regnne of kyng Edward  
byrde aftir the conquest fisteneth that euy man that is born  
e forseide town and his fadir hath ben at lot and Scotte and  
mune charge of the forseide towne . Anon as he wille chaffren

he by fore the maire and Coroners in pleyn plees of the  
de towne And make his othe in suche man<sup>e</sup> that he shall  
leithfull and trewe to oure lorde the kynge and to his  
And iustifiable to maire and Bailliffes and the ffraunches and  
vages of the forseide towne to his power mayntene as moiste  
ly to hym shall be shewed at the makyng of his othe and  
he paie the sees to the Clerke and Seriaunte of olde tyme  
that is to wite .iiij<sup>a</sup> to the Clerke and .ij<sup>a</sup> to the s<sup>r</sup>geaunt  
e maire or to the towñ fro thenns forwarde And also that  
y of the condicion aforeide or any other chaffar or he haue

his othe aforeseide lese his chaffar to the profite of the towne  
seide . And also the forsaide maire and the Cōminalte be  
ide ben assented that if any man of the fraanchise of the  
de towne Emplede other in the Courte of Norhamptō be  
daunt of the fraanchise or non in plee of dette of xijd or  
He that is empledid may doo his lawe bi his owne honde .  
rat he that shall doo his lawe be of good fame . And also  
ame vstage be holden in plee of dispsonament So that the

[Folio 118a.]

[Folio 118b.]

pleynfyte be of the fraunchise be the defendaunt duusayn or forenne And also the forfaide mayre and Cōminalte ben assented that in the plees of dette or of trespass that toucheth dispionament that the pleynfise after the lawe waged haue but on aþoynes and in affermynge of theise poyntes a bove seide The Cōmoun seal of the town of Norhampton is putte for to lasten at all dayes

#### SACRUM RECORDATORIS

##### [THE OATH OF THE RECORDER.]

Ye shall yeve good and true Councell to the Maire of Northamton and Baillifys; and ther mynysters of the same that now ben and to ther Successours and the lybertees ffranchisiss free customes and usages of the same Town. ye shall maynteyn and sussteyn. And be indyfferent be twene party and party in every mater and Cause meved or to be meved within the Courte of the same. Where thorow Ryght Jugement may procede to your connynge and power So god you helpe and all Seyntys and be this boke &c

#### SACRUM CORNATOX DNI REGIS

##### [THE OATH OF THE CORONER OF OUR LORD THE KING.]

(Folio 119a.)

Ye shall well and truly ſue the kyng oure ſouaigne lorde in thoffice of Crouner within this toun and ffranchies of the same. And truely kepe the pleese of the Croune that to the kyng longeth within this toun and ffranchies. And to ſee that the people of the toun ryghtvly be entreted Os well the pore as the Ryche. Os the Charter of kyng John witnesſith. Also ye shall goo to men ſlayne or drowned Or of sodeyn deth. Or murderyng in howſes. And to treſoure founde. And truely kepe the plees longyng to the Croun And the names of them that be gylty. ye shall do to be wryten in the Crouner Rolle. And truely certyfye the kyng or to his Councell. when ye be lawfully requyred theſe Articleſ and other that to the offyce longeth ye ſhall to your konnyng And power truely execute And kepe ſoo helpe you god and all seytis And bi this boke &c

SACRM XXIIIJ<sup>th</sup> COMBURGENZ

[Folio 119b.]

## [THE OATH OF THE COMPANY OF TWENTY-FOUR.]

Ye schall ſeſe good and trew Councell to your Meire all this yere enſuyng as oſte tyme as yt nedith and whan ye be required to youre Connyng and power ſo helpe me god & all ſeynt

## SACRM P HÔIE ADMISS IN LIBERTATEM

## [THE OATH FOR A MAN ADMITTED TO THE LIBERTY.]

I ſhall be ffeithfull and lawfull to oure lorde the kynge and to his ayres. And Justifiable to meire & Bailliff; of this towne that nowe be hath be or thalbe. And the ffreedoms and viages of the ſaide toun to my power maynteyn and ſusteyn And the Councell of the same well & treuly hele & kepe ſo helpe me god and all ſeyntis

## SACRM DECENAR

## [THE OATH OF THE TITHING-MAN.]

Ye ſhall well & truely enquere and pſent all man<sup>9</sup> of ffraies blodeshedis daggers ſwyrdis billis Gleffis and all other man<sup>9</sup> wepons And ſtavis drawen Agayne the peafe. And of tachementis broken from the Bailliffis or ther mynysters And of all man<sup>9</sup> of herborowers Ageynſt the ſyſe And of all homeſokyns And herkeners under mennys wyndowes And of all comyn chiders and comyn nyght walkers and of all comyn Sonday Dyners. <sup>327</sup> (all brekefaſte kepers in the tyme of dyvine ſuice & in the time of ſmons And all man<sup>9</sup> of pſones that by vitailes as egge butter and cheſe and all other vitailes affore they come into the m<sup>9</sup>ket affigned therfore and that you ſhall prefent all ſoche pſones ſo doing) Also ye ſhall enquere and prefent in tyme of leetis And at all tymes ye ſhall make true enquaunce and true pſentacion of thei; Articles And all other that longen to thofſice And lett not for love mede nor promyſie that ye owe to ony pſone nor other wyſe doo than Right wyll to your Conience &c <sup>327</sup> (and ther ale to be ſettlyd to cōteyn xij gallons off clere ale accordinge to the mayors crye & that they kepe this prefent all ale howſys and typlynge

[Folio 120a.]

<sup>327</sup> These words have been added to this ordinance in a later hand.

howlys wch be not bownd by Recognisance according to the kinges act of parlyment therfor made and to present all evyll rule kepers as playe at dice card &c bowlle & other unlawful games Of all blocke and muckhill in the stretes to annoynace And that you go to see that all bruares do brue good and sufficient & holome ale for mans body & that their tobes be gayne & y<sup>t</sup> they sell w<sup>t</sup> no measure but it be ensealed)

SACR<sup>M</sup> PISTORUM  
[THE OATH OF BAKERS.]

Ye shall well and truely serfe this toun in your Crafte of all the poyntes pteyng to the same. ffor all this yere ensuyng And kepe your assise in bakynge as ye shall be charged be your Meire after the forme and statute that some tyme was made ordeyned at Wynchestur bi the Councell of the Realme and duely to kepe your assise that shall be Assigned to you be youre Maisters the next day of plees After the market holden too helpe you god and all seytis &c

SACR<sup>M</sup> MAGISTRI ARTIS PISTORUM

[THE OATH OF A MASTER OF THE BAKERS' CRAFT.]

[Folio 120b.] Ye shall truely enserch and ouersee all maner of poyntis to your Crafte longyng & dependyng . That is to sey that ye shall see that eþy baker within this town dwellyng shall bake all this yere ensuyng good and sufficiaunt paste of all man<sup>9</sup> of greynys well wrought and of good bultell with all other poyntes dependyng to the same Crafte. And if ye fynde any Man doo the contrary in ony poynte thereof that then shull ye pte you in devoure to the amendment of the same deffaute . And forthwith make relacon and certysfy the Meire of ony suche piane so offendyng and trespassing in this be halfe . Noo thing therof to concele for lose mede nor pmyse otherwise than right wyll . And duely to take your Assise of the Meire the next daye of the plees after the market holden so helpe you god & all seytis &c

SACR<sup>M</sup> CISSOR  
[THE OATH OF TAILORS.]

Ye shall duely and truely serche and ouersee all man<sup>9</sup> of poyntes to Taillours Crafte pteyning . And if ye fynde any trespassoure trespass or defavte in the seide Crafte Then ye shall

that trespassour for his trespass and defautes dewly and truely and indifferent bi the Auctorite of youre Ordinaunce correcte and punysch Savyng Alonly that if it happyn contrauersy or debate pecially among you here after to fall that contrauersy or debate the punyschment ther of to be reserved to the meire Allso ye shall present and make leuewe of all maner psones that be Abled in your tyme too sett vp and occupie your occupacion os maister . And them f<sup>t</sup>ifie to the Meire after the constitucion of your Crafte . And this ye shall nott lett too doo for lufe ffauour mede nor promyse that ye haue made to any psonne ne for hate malice or evyll wyll to any psonne doo other than conciens wyll so helpe you god and all seyntis & be this boke &c

[Folio 111a.]

### SACRM CARNIFICIUM & PISCERUM

#### [THE OATH OF BUTCHERS AND FISHERS.]

Ye shall duely and truely enserche and ouersee all man<sup>9</sup> poyntes dependyng to your Crafte called that no maner bocher or ffyfher sell within this toun any maner corrupte fflesh or ffishe the whiche is not holsom to manrys body And contrary to the statute therof made bi Auctorite of pliment . And when ye fynde any suche trespass or defaute ye shall the name of the same trespassour fforth with certifie the Meire . And all suche fflesh or ffyfher so founde defectife ye shall kepe vnto the Meire hafe therof A sight and direcion . Allso ye shall truely enserche that euy fforeyn Bocher that sell fflesh in the kytestallis bryng with hym all such hydes and Talowe as be longed to all suche fflesh as thei or any of theym bryng with theym to sell . And if ye fynde any doo the contrari ye shall certifie the Meire therof fforth with And this ye shall nott lett to doo for mede promyse lufe nor ffauour that ye owe to any psonne or psonnes ne for malice ne evill will other doo then Conciens will . so helpe you god and all seyntis &c

[Folio 111ab.]

### SACRM ALLUTAR CORASSATOR

#### [THE OATHS OF SHOEMAKERS AND CORDWAINERS.]

Ye shull duely and truely enserch and ouersee all maner poyntes longyng to Cordwyn<sup>9</sup> craft<sup>228</sup> (Corior<sup>9</sup> crafte and Barkers crafte) . ffirste no man<sup>9</sup> cordwy<sup>n</sup> sell within this town botis nor shois

<sup>228</sup> The words "Corior<sup>9</sup> crafte and Barkers crafte," have been ruled in the *Liber*.

but of good & sufficiaunt stuffe <sup>329</sup> (According to the statute And) that no corio<sup>r</sup> selle any leddur but if it be sufficiaunly curried <sup>329</sup> (And thorowe tannyd and) curried with sufficient stuffe . And that it be good & able And that no Tanner within this town nor Countre sell within this toun any maner leddur but if it be sufficiauntli tanned <sup>329</sup> (accordyng to the statute And that noo barker hafe any flatte standyng in her Tannhillis for hit is contrary to the statute and grete discrete to the kynge liege people) And if ye fynde any of those Artificers doo the contrary in any of theise poyntes ye shall the same leddur so vnsufficiaunly wrought kepc in your Awarde and fforthwith make relacion to the Meire [Folio 122a.] the names of hym or them that too trespassed and offended in theise poyntes or any of theym . And this ye shull not lette to doo [or lose] mede nor promyse nor for your synguler Av- [auntage] for wrath hate or evill will doo to any psonne [other than] confience wyll Soo god you helpe and all [seyntis] & <sup>330</sup> (& contentes of this booke)

SACRM ARTIS CANDELAR CERE  
[THE OATH FOR THE CRAFT OF TORCHMAKERS.]

Ye shull duely and truely serche and enquere all the circuite of this ffraunchies that maner of psonne within this toun sell or putt to sale any torche or torchett or other thing disceitfullly made in youre Occupacion . Other than is made of lawfull stuffe . Accordyng to the ordinaunce bi the Councell of this toun therof made and ensealed Accordyng to the seide ordinaunce . And yi ye fynde any thyng flawty ye shall that thing kepe And certifie the Meire ther of And the name of hym or theym that iuste puttith to sale And no thyng therof conceale but true serche and p'sentacion in this be halfe make So helpe me god and all seyntis and be this boke &

[Folio 122b.]

SACRM FFULLONU TEXTOR

[THE OATH OF THE FULLERS.]

Ye shall in your Crafte called . N . duely and truely serche Amongst the Artificers of the same Crafte that thei and euynchone

<sup>329</sup> The following words have been ruled in the *Liber* :—" According to "the statute And," "And thorowe tannyd and," "accordyng to the statute "And that noo barker hafe any flatte standyng in her Tannhillis for hit is contrary "to the statute and grete discrete to the kyngs liege people."

<sup>330</sup> The words "contentes of this booke" have been written in a later hand

of [theym] doo truely her warkemanshippe in their Occup[acion] with all man<sup>o</sup> of poyntes to the same occupacion p[teynyng] And if ye fynde eny of the feide Artificers defectife or trespassyng contrari in any poynte or Article of the statute and ordinanuce ther of made . That than ye shall þsent hym or theym to the Meire As often as thei so be founde offendyng what he trespassith withoute Any conceilment in any parte ther of So helpe me god and all seyntis &c

## SACRM SCRUTAT TEXTOR

[THE OATH OF THE SEARCHER OF TEXTILES.]

Ye shall duly and truely ferche eþy weke as often as hit nedith eþyche houholder of your occupacion within the ffrauncheis of this toun . That thei weiffe no man<sup>o</sup> of cloth within this Toun or ffrauncheis that shalbe puttoo sale . But suche as is sufficiant and true draparry And that the warpe and the wofe be like to onee colour . And sufficiaunt stoffe for the lenght and brede that shall be leide ffor . And if ye fynde any clothe clothes or dagouns that shalbe putto sale that is nott sufficiaunte Coloure fluffe and warkemanshippe in any poynte that longeth to the Occupacion . Then ye shall fforthwith gefe relacion to the Meire the names of the owner . and of the warkeman of such clothe clothes or dagouns withoute any lenger conceiling the same vpon the payne that is ordeyned therof bi Acte of Assamble be admytted bi Assent of all the town      ye shall nott lett this to doo for lofe or promyse that ye owe to doo So helpe you god and all seyntis & be this &c

[Folio 123a.]

## SACRM CONSTABUL

[THE OATH OF THE CONSTABLE.]

Ye shall well and truely serve the kyng our souayne lorde in the office of Constableshippe within the presynkete of the N . quarter of this toun . In tyme of wache . ye shall geve dewe com-aundement and charge in the kynge be halfe to the wachemen suche as shalbe somoned bi the þiaunt of the quarter too A pere Afore you . That thei kepe and make due wache and true from the tyme of your charge giffyng vnto the sonne be vpon the morow And that thei kepe ther owne quarter . And come intoo none other tyll thei be requyred of ony other wache . Or but ony horne blowe ony ffray made or owte crye parell of ffyre or Children And all suche other . Allso that thei be hafe them in godely wise

[Folio 123b.]

in kepyng of theire wache stilly goyng withoute noyse or lowde speche. Also if any straunge man or woman happen to come to this toun bi nyghtis tyme. That then thei honestly to examoun such man or woman. And if thei be not suspiciouse bryng hem till An Jnne. And if thei be founde suspiciose or vntrewe then that thei be brought to warde vnto the Maire and baillifſe have hadde examynacion of them Also ye shall in youre pion to your myght and power at all tymes be redy to Assise Maire baillifſe and other ther mynysters in execucion or doyng theire office if nede require And refiſte and denounce all euell doers yf ye knowe them Theiſe poyntes and Articles and all other to youre office of Constableſhiſe Appleyning ye shall be redy. And doo your devoure to youre myght and power to helpe you god & holydome & be this boke &c

[Folio 124a.]

ABIURATIO LATRONUM JURE UT PATET  
[THE OATH OF ROBBERS ABJURING THE KINGDOM.]

Hco audis dñe Coronator qd ego . N. de tli loco sum latro bidencij vñ alicui<sup>s</sup> alſius aial vel omicidia vni<sup>s</sup> vel plurimū & felonus dñi Regis Angl & mitta mala & latrocinia vñ hui<sup>s</sup> in ſtam ſuam tecu abiuro tam dñi Regis H Angl & qd debeo festinar me vñ portum . N. &c q<sup>d</sup> dediſti mihi & qd non debeam deir de alia via & ti faciam volo qd sum captus ſicut latr & felons dñi Regis & qd ad portu p̄dictam queram diligent<sup>t</sup> tñſitu & non expectabo illuc refluxum & vnu refluxum ſi tñſitum here poſo & niſi tanto ſpacio here poſo tñſitum ibo in quoibys die in mari uſq<sup>j</sup> genua mea temptans tñſire & niſi hoc poſo intra xl dies continues mittam me iſum ad eccliam ſicut latro & felonus dñi Regis ſic me adiuuet deus <sup>ss1</sup>

Thus here I<sup>o</sup> Crouner that J R O am a ffeloun of our lorde the kyng . And Aſſelony J haue done like as J haue confeſſid to you &c Wherefore J for ſwere the Realme of Englond . And that J shall hye me to the porte of Newecastell vpon tyne . the whiche ye haue geven me . And J shall not goo oute of the high weye And yf J doo J will that J betakyn as a ffeloun of our feide lorde the kyng . And att the feide porte J shall aske paſſage . And J shall not Abyde there but Afflode and a Ebbe if J may haue paſſage . And if J may nott haſe paſſage . J shall euy day goo in

<sup>ss1</sup> The translation following this on the same folio is written by a later hand.

see vnto my knees Askynge passage. And if I may nott  
þ in .xl. dayes next. I shall Admitte me to the Chyrche  
os a fieloun of our feide lorde the kyng soo helpe me  
All Seyntys &c

## [GRANT OF A RENT CHARGE.]

MABUS Xpi fidelib; Ad  
esens Scriptum indentan-  
tenerit Wittms Benett  
e Bukbroke in com North-  
man et Wittms Benet  
heres meus Saltm in dñō  
nam Noueritis nos Wittm  
m vnanimi assensu & con-  
edisse concessisse & hoc

Scripto aro indentato  
asse Johanni Marchall ju-  
Norhampton fuller vnum  
em redditum quatuor  
ne & legalis monete Ang-  
d tenend & Annuatim  
nd dict Annalem red-  
iuatuor solid pfa Johanni  
ll execu & assig suis  
confectionis pfectm viq;  
termini quindecim Annoz  
px seq & plenarie com-  
oluend Annuatim durante  
pdic<sup>t</sup> dict annalem red-  
ka Johi execu vel assig  
festo om Scos p equales  
es Et si contingat dict  
em redditu quatuor soli-  
tro fore in pti vel in toto  
tu pdcm per octo dies  
ci Wittms &

TO ALL the faithful of Christ (Folio 124b.)  
to whom the present writing inden-  
ted shall come William Benett  
senior of Bukbroke [Bugbrook]  
in the county of Northampton hus-  
bandman and William Benet my  
son and heir send greeting ever-  
lasting in the Lord You must know  
that we William and Willjam  
with one assent and consent have  
given granted and by this present  
writing of ours indented have  
confirmed to John Marchall ju-  
nior of Northampton fuller one  
annual rent of four shillings of  
good and lawful money of Eng-  
land to have and to hold and  
annually to receive the said  
annual rent of four shillings  
to the aforesaid John Marchall his  
executors and assigns from the  
day of the completion of these  
presents to the end of the term  
of fifteen years thence next fol-  
lowing and fully to be completed  
To pay annually during the term  
aforesaid the said annual rent to  
the aforesaid John his executors  
or assigns on the feast of All  
Saints by equal portions And if  
it happen that the said annual  
rent of four shillings shall be in  
arrear in part or in whole after  
the feast aforesaid for eight days  
then the aforesaid William and

Wittms p se & hered suis volunt & p plentes concedunt qd bene licebit pftato Johanni Marchall execul & assign suis in Claudio nro ad finem ville de Bukbroke pdic iacent ex parte Orientalis eiusdm ville intrare & distingere districtones qz sic capl licite al portare abducere & penes se retinere quousqz de Annual redditu pdco & eius arreragijs si que sunt eis plenaris sunt satisfact & psolut Et nos vero pdci Wittms & Wittms & hered nri dem Annalem redditum quatuor solidoz pftato Johanni Marchall execul & assign suis contra omnes gentes warantizabimus & defendemus durante termino predcoz quindecim Annoz p psentes Et pteria posuimus pftatum Jo: Marchall in plena & pacifica possessione & seisin dict Annual redditu per deliberatorem quatuor denarioz Argenti quos ei deliberauimus die Dal pfectiu nomine possessionis & seisin eiusdem in ptem solutonis dict Annual redditus Ac insup cum pdci Wittms Benet senior & Wittms Benet filius & heres meus p Scriptum nrm obligatori cuius dal est die confectionis pfectum teneamur & obligamr & vterqz nrm

[Folio 115a.]

William for themselves and their heirs are willing and by these presents concede that it shall be quite lawful for the aforesaid John Marchall his executors and assigns to enter in our close at the end of the town of Bukbrook [Bugbrook] aforesaid lying on the east part of the said town and to make distrant and the distrants so taken lawfully to carry and take away and retain in their own custody until satisfaction and payment shall have been fully made to them concerning the annual rent aforesaid and its arrears if any And we indeed the aforesaid William and William and our heirs the said annual rent of four shillings to the aforesaid John Marchall his executors and assigns against all people will guarantee and defend during the term of fifteen years aforesaid by these presents And besides we have put the aforesaid John Marchall in full and peaceful possession and seisin of the said annual rent by the delivery of four pennies of silver which we have delivered to him on the day of the date of these presents in the name of the said possession and seisin in part payment of the said annual rent And further whereas the aforesaid William Benet Senior and William Benet my son and heir by our writing obligatory whose date is on the day of the com-

sto & in solid teneam'  
m' p̄fato Johi in decem  
me & legalis monete  
soluend infesto Oñi S̄coz  
post dāt plent̄m put in  
ipto obligatorio plenius  
Tamen pd̄cūs Jōhes  
p se execut & assign  
& p p̄sentēs concedit q<sup>a</sup>  
& pacifice h̄eant teneant  
& possideant dic̄ annuat  
quatuor solid annuatim  
& pd̄ict durante termino  
si sufficiens districi in  
as p reddit̄ pd̄ict inuent  
ns quociens necesse fuit  
termino pd̄o q<sup>a</sup> tunc  
criptum obligatorium p  
tur Alioquin in oñi suo  
bet & effē Jn cuius rei  
uni parte istoꝝ Scriptoꝝ  
nos peñ p̄fatos Wittm  
m remanentem pd̄cūs  
Marchall Sigillum suū  
Et alter vero pti istoꝝ  
indentat penes prefatum  
Marchall remanent Nos  
Wittms & Wittms Sigilla  
posuimus dat vicesimo  
ie mensis Martij

pletion of the presents are held  
and bound and each of us by  
himself is held and bound for  
the entire sum to the aforesaid  
John in ten pounds of good and  
lawful money of England to be  
paid on the feast of All Saints  
next coming after the date of the  
presents as in the same writing  
obligatory more fully appears  
But yet the aforesaid John  
Marchall for himself his executors  
and assigns is willing and by  
these presents concedes that if  
they shall well and peacefully  
have hold enjoy and possess the  
said annual rent of four shillings  
every year at the feast aforesaid  
during the term aforesaid or if  
sufficient restraint shall have  
been found in the said close for  
the rent aforesaid as often as  
shall be necessary during the  
term aforesaid that then the  
aforesaid writing obligatory shall  
be held null and void otherwise  
it must stand in all its force and  
effect In testimony whereof to  
one part of these writings in-  
dented remaining in the custody  
of us the aforesaid William  
and William the aforesaid John  
Marchall has put his seal and  
to the other part of these writ-  
ings indented remaining in the  
custody of the aforesaid John  
Marchall We the aforesaid  
William and William have put  
our seals Given on the 24th  
day of the month of March

Anno Regni Regis Henrici [1487] in the 2nd year of the  
septimi post conquestum secundo reign of King Henry the 7th  
after the Conquest

[ORDINANCE MADE IN LONDON FOR INN KEEPER AND BAKERS.]

[Folio 245v.]

Jnt<sup>t</sup> a o in libro G ffol cxxx<sup>233</sup>

It is ordeigned by Adam of Bury Maire and Alderman of the Citee of London that non hostiller nor herberiour owith to make no man<sup>d</sup> of brede in their houses to selle to their gestys but they shall by their brede for their gestys and for their hories of the Comon Bakers of the Cytee. So that euy bred be merked w<sup>t</sup> the marke of the Baker of the whiche the brede was bought. So that euy p<sup>i</sup>one may knowe that the brede be of right Ailise and of verry value that it owyth to be. And than may the hostyllers and herbiours Avowe the sale of heir brede by the merke of the baker. And yf any brede be founde in the houses of the hostyllers and herbiours to selle In any man<sup>d</sup> then in the forme Aforeseide. That than they shall haue the same penaunce that the baker shall haue yf they at any tyme shalbe therof Atteynt &c

[LEASE OF SAINT LEONARD'S HOSPITAL.]

[Folio 156a.]

INT<sup>t</sup> VILLA ET JOHEZ PECK  
PRO SCI LEONARDI HOSPIT<sup>l</sup>

BETWEEN THE TOWN AND  
JOHN PECK FOR THE HOSPITAL  
OF ST LEONARD<sup>234</sup>

Hec indentura facta in<sup>t</sup> Thomam Hunt Maiorem ville Norht & viginti quatuor Comburgenses eiusdm<sup>m</sup> ville sibi Jural<sup>t</sup> ex pte vna et Jo<sup>b</sup>em Pecke de Kynges-thorpe iux<sup>a</sup> Norht Gent ex pte

This indenture made between Thomas Hunt<sup>234</sup> mayor of the town of Northampton and the 24 sworn burgesses of the same town of the one part and John Peck of Kingsthorpe near Northampton Gent of the other part

<sup>233</sup> This ordinance is preserved amongst the muniments of the City of London and is referred to on folio 319B of the *Liber Albus* (compiled 1419) as.—“Item “that no Hosteler shall make any bread, but shall buy it of the Bakers—G 135. *The Liber Albus*, by H. T. Riley, 1861.

<sup>234</sup> The Hospital of St. Leonard was situated in the hamlet of East Cotton, and parish of Hardingston, and was said to have been founded by William the Conqueror, for the maintenance of a master and leprous brethren and sisters.

<sup>235</sup> Thomas Hunt was mayor of the town in 1456-7, 1465-6, 1473-4, and 1481-2. He was one of the representatives at the parliament held 28th Henry VI.

testatur qd pdci Maior & argentes sui concesserunt erunt & diuiserunt pfat hospitale suum Sci Leon- n Cotoñ iuxta Norht cū y terris teñ redditib; pascuis pastur ac oñib; comoditatib; pñcias & ptñ vibuscumq; eidm hospitali modo ptinēt seu cont in Coñ pdict seu alibi i Capella Sci Thome sup a Australem ville Norht & ptin suis hñend & tenend Joh ad lñimum vite sue ndo & soluendo inde ant durante lñimo pdco Ca- s Cantarie ciusdñ hospitlis tempe fuit p maiores villa p tempe existent & suos urgentes loci ordinat pse- Octo marcas ad quatuor annos vsuales vel Jnueniend Capellano victum suum ut o & potu ac soluendo eidm anno quatuor marcas & tres anni Coloris ratonabit p

Necnon deliband eidm mansum infra hospitale p Capell idm existent p- ordinal Et idm Jolies tabit oñia on'a ordinaria

witnesseth that the aforesaid mayor and his burgesses have granted delivered and divided to the aforesaid John their hospital of St Leonard in Coton [Cotton] near Northampton with all its lands and tenements rents fields meadows pastures and all other commodities profits and appurtenances whatsoever to the same hospital in any manner pertaining or belonging in the county aforesaid or elsewhere together with the chapel of St Thomas on the South bridge of the town of Northampton aforesaid and its appurtenances To have and to hold to the same John for the term of his life by rendering and paying from thence every year during the term aforesaid to the chaplain of the Chantry of the same hospital for the time being to be presented by the mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being and his burgesses in the ordinary place eight marks at the four usual periods of the year or by finding for the same chaplain his victuals both food and drink and by paying to the same chaplain four marks and three yards of cloth of decent colour in the year also by delivering to the same chaplain the dwelling within the hospital aforesaid before time assigned for the chaplain there being And the same John will take upon himself all burdens ordinary

& extra ordinaria reddit & s<sup>o</sup>uicia  
eidm hospitali qualib<sup>t</sup> cumq<sup>t</sup> incum-  
bentia durante t<sup>o</sup>mino p<sup>r</sup>notato  
Et etiam d<sup>c</sup>us John soluet  
Annuatim qualib<sup>t</sup> septiman<sup>o</sup>  
t<sup>o</sup>mino p<sup>r</sup>d<sup>e</sup>o cuidam leproso vel  
leprose qui vel que p<sup>r</sup> tempe  
fuit ibm quinq<sup>t</sup> denar<sup>t</sup> & lemel  
p<sup>r</sup> annu<sup>t</sup> duas pnas baconis  
& vnm Buttellum starine Aueaz.  
Et d<sup>c</sup>us John oīnia domos

[Folio 126b.] & edificia ac eccliam dicti  
hospi<sup>l</sup>ilis manutenebit repabit &  
sustentabit bñ & computent sum-  
tib<sup>t</sup> suis ppis & expens<sup>t</sup> durante  
termino p<sup>r</sup>d<sup>e</sup>o Et ea in bono statu  
in fine t<sup>o</sup>mini sui dimittet Et  
psat John nullam arborem ibm  
p<sup>r</sup>suet niti p<sup>r</sup> supvis<sup>t</sup> Maioris  
ville Nor<sup>t</sup> p<sup>r</sup>d<sup>e</sup>e p<sup>r</sup> tempe existent  
p<sup>r</sup> repatœ & necessarijs tangent<sup>t</sup>  
ecclie siue domib<sup>t</sup> hospi<sup>l</sup>ilis p<sup>r</sup>d<sup>e</sup>i  
aut hui**bondrie** eiusdem nec aliqua  
terras seu tenementa eiusdem  
hospi<sup>l</sup>ilis Alicui alij ultra statum  
siue p<sup>r</sup>minum suum p<sup>r</sup>d<sup>e</sup>um Absq<sup>t</sup>  
licencia dicti maior<sup>t</sup> & viginti  
quatuor Comburgenium suo<sup>t</sup> aut  
eo<sup>t</sup> successo<sup>t</sup> dimittet Pruiso  
semp qd si d<sup>c</sup>us John oīnia  
domos & edificia ac eccliam  
d<sup>c</sup>i hospitali infra vnū aīm px  
sequ<sup>t</sup> post debitam p<sup>r</sup>munitōem p

and extraordinary rents and ser-  
vices upon the same hospital in  
any way whatsoever incumbent  
during the term aforesaid And  
also the said John will pay  
annually for each week during  
the term aforesaid to each ma-  
or female leper who shall be there  
at the time fivepence and once in  
the year two gammons of bacon  
and one bushel of oatmeal And  
the said John all the houses and  
buildings and the church of the  
said hospital shall maintain  
repair and keep up well and  
competently at his own proper  
costs and expenses during the  
term aforesaid and shall leave  
them in good condition at the  
end of his term And the aforesaid  
John will cut down no trees  
there except by supervision of  
the mayor of the town of North-  
ampton aforesaid for the time  
being for repair or for necessary  
works relating to the church or  
houses of the hospital aforesaid  
or to the husbandry of the same  
nor shall he demise any lands or  
tenements of the said hospital to  
any other beyond his state or  
term aforesaid without license of  
the said mayor and his Successors  
Provided always that if the said John  
shall not have repaired nor cause  
to be repaired and made good  
well and sufficiently at his own  
proper costs all the houses and  
buildings and the church of the

em dce ville p tempe exi-  
eidi John inde fact bene &  
ent suis ppijs sumtibz non  
it nec repari & emendari  
tunc bene liceat deis maiori  
mburgenſ in dēm hospīle  
nibz tris seu reddit⁹ prat⁹  
is pastur ac oīibz alijs com-  
ibz pficuis & pti⁹ suis hos-  
dēo aliquo modo pti⁹ rein-  
& ea in pristino statu suo  
e & tenere plent indentur  
ſione traditōe & diuisione  
iquo non obſtantē Et ad  
pmissa expte dēi Johnis bñ  
er tenend & pimplend Jdm  
concedit fe teneri & obli-  
ſiat⁹ maiori & successoribz  
irmit⁹ p pſentes In cuius  
ſtimoniū vni pti iſtius in-  
penes pſat⁹ Johnem re-  
nti pſat⁹ Major ex assensu  
Comburenſ iuoz p'dēoz  
um officij maiorat⁹ ſui p'dēi  
ſuit Cuius vero altera pars  
pſat Maiorem & Cobur-  
g ſuos p'dēos ſigillo ipius  
refidet confignat⁹ Dat⁹ apud  
viceſimo tertio die mensis  
Anno regni Regis Ed-  
quarti post conqñ tertio  
o &c

said hospital within one year next  
following after due warning by  
the mayor of the ſaid town for  
the time being to the ſame John  
thereupon given then it may be  
quite lawful for the ſaid mayor  
and burgesses to re-enter into  
the ſaid hospital with all its  
lands or rents fields meadows  
pastures and all other commodities  
profits and appurtenances  
in any way belonging to the  
hospital aforesaid and to restore  
and keep them in their former  
condition the confeſſion delivery  
and diuision of the preſent in-  
denture in anything notwithstanding  
And to all the premisses  
on the part of the ſaid John well  
and faithfully to hold and fulfil  
the ſame John allows that he is  
held and bound to the aforesaid  
mayor and his successors firmly  
by the presents In testimony  
whereof to the one part of this  
indenture remaining in the cu-  
ſtody of the aforesaid John the  
aforesaid mayor by the assent of  
his 24 burgesses aforesaid has  
put the ſeal of his office of mayor  
aforesaid and the other part of  
it remains in the cuſtody of the  
aforesaid mayor and his burgesses  
aforesaid ſtamped with the ſeal  
of the ſame John Given at North-  
ampton on the 23rd day of the  
month of March [1473] in the  
13th year of the reign of King  
Edward the 4th after the Con-  
quest &c

Folio 157a.]

## [WRIT TO THE SHERIFF OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.]

Henricus dei gra Rex Angt  
& ffranç & Dux Hibn Viç Buk  
saltm supplicauit nobis Jones  
Motte vt cum ipo de vita sua  
& mutilatioe membroz suoꝝ p  
Johem Water de Whitechirche  
& Laurençm Jonnesseruant Wal-  
ter de Whitechirche guit<sup>9</sup> &  
manifeste comminatus existat.  
Velim p securitate sua in hac  
parte puidere. Nos supplicatœ  
pdcœ annuentes tibi pcipiñ fir-  
mit<sup>9</sup> iniungentes qd pfatos Johem  
Water Johem Harle & Laurenciū  
coram te corporalit<sup>9</sup> venire fac  
& ipos ad sufficentes manucap-  
tores inueniend qui eos manucape  
voluint sub c<sup>2</sup>ta pena sibi pte  
rōabilit<sup>9</sup> imponend p qua nobis  
responder voluis qd ipi dampnū  
vel malum aliquod eidem Johi  
Motte de corpore suo non fac  
nec fieri pcurabit quoitmodo  
compellas Et si hoc coram te fac<sup>e</sup>  
recuiauint tunc ipos Johem Water  
Johem Harle & Laurenciū p  
prisone ñre comittas in eadem  
saluo custodiend quousq<sup>3</sup> hoc  
g<sup>t</sup>is fac<sup>e</sup> voluint. Et cum se-  
curitatem illam sic cepis nos  
inde in Cancellar<sup>9</sup> ñra sub sigillo  
tuo distincte & apte sine ditone  
reddas c<sup>2</sup>tiores hoc b<sup>r</sup>e

Henry by the grace of God  
King of England and France and  
Lord of Ireland to the sheriff of  
Buckinghamshire Greeting John  
Motte<sup>225</sup> has petitioned us that  
whereas he is grievously and  
manifestly threatened concerning  
his life and mutilation of his  
limbs by John Water of Whit-  
church and Lawrence Jonnes servant of  
Walter of Whitchurch we would  
be willing to provide for his  
security in this matter We  
assenting to the petition aforesaid  
strictly charge and enjoin you  
that you cause the aforesaid John  
Water John Harle and Lawrence  
to come bodily before you and  
compel them to find sufficient  
sureties who would be willing to  
become bail for them under a  
fixed penalty reasonably to be  
put upon them for which you will  
answer to us that they do not  
inflict or cause to be inflicted  
any damage or mischief whatever  
upon the same John in any way  
as to his body And if they shall  
refuse to do this in your presence  
then you must commit them John  
Water John Harle and Lawrence  
to our nearest prison to be kept  
safely in the same until they  
shall be willing to do this of their  
own accord and when you shall  
have so taken that security you  
must distinctly and openly inform

<sup>225</sup> John Motte was mayor of the town in 1527-8 1538-9.

mittentes T me ipso apud  
viii<sup>o</sup> die Aprilis Anno r̄  
mo Monter

us of it in our Chancery under  
your seal without delay returning  
this brief to us Witness myself  
at Westminster the 8th day of  
April [1516] in the 7th year of  
our reign Monter

## [WRIT TO THE SHERIFF OF BEDFORDSHIRE.]

eritus dei grā Rex Angt  
ē & Dūx Hiberni vič Bed-  
um in statuto in plimento  
nup Regis Angt pgeni-  
ri apud Westm nup tento  
uisum sit qd subvicecomes  
is vič in officijs suis ult  
nū non morient. Ac iam  
jms qd Thomas Stretton  
i officio cluci vič com pdcī  
annos stetit cont' for-  
ituti pdcī minus iuste. Nos  
s statutū pdcī in omib;  
bilit obseruari tibi pcipi-  
mit; iniungentes qd si ita  
ipm Thomam ab officio  
sine ditone ammoueri &  
ticum magis idoneū &  
p quo respondere volūis  
no poni & deputari fac  
ormam statuti pdcī T me  
ad Westm x<sup>mo</sup> die No  
Anno r̄ a septimo

bře de statuto  
Wymbyssh

Henry by the grace of God [Folio 127b.]  
King of England and France  
and Lord of Ireland to the sheriff  
of Bedfordshire Greeting Whereas  
in a statute issued in a parliament  
of the Lord Edward lately King  
of England our progenitor lately  
held at Westminster it was pro-  
vided that the under-sheriff and  
clerk of the sheriff should not  
continue in their office beyond  
one year And now we have been  
given to understand that Thomas  
Stretton now in the office of  
clerk of the sheriff of the county  
aforesaid has remained for several  
years contrary to the form of the  
statute aforesaid illegally We  
wishing that the statute aforesaid  
in all things should be observed  
inviolably charge and strictly  
enjoin you that if this is so then  
youcause him Thomas without  
delay to be removed from the  
office aforesaid and another clerk  
more suitable and faithful for  
whom you will answer to be put  
and appointed in his place accord-  
ing to the form of the statute  
aforesaid Witness myself at  
Westminster the 10th day of No-  
vember in the 7th year of our reign

Brief about the statute  
Wymbyssh

[LETTERS PATENT OF 3RD HENRY VIII., Granting free pardon  
to John Collet.]

[Folio 128a.]

Henricus dei grā Rex Anglie  
& francie & Dominus Hibnie  
Omnibꝫ balliuis & fidelibꝫ suis  
ad quos p̄tentes īre puen̄t  
saltm Sciatis qd de grā nra spali  
ac ex c̄ta scientia & mero motu  
nris pdonauimus remissim⁹ & re-  
laxauimus Joh̄i Collet nup de  
Norhamptoñ in Com̄ Norht Cor-  
nyſoure alias dēo Joh̄i Colit de  
Norhamptoñ in Com̄ Shomaker  
alias dēo Joh̄i Colette de Nor-  
hampton Yoman alias dēo Joh̄i  
Collett nup de Norhamptoñ la-  
borer alias dēo Joh̄i Colleyte  
nup de Dustoun in Com̄ Norht  
husbondman alias dēo Joh̄i Colete  
nup de Norhamptoñ in Com̄  
Norht Geylour seu quocumq; alio  
nōie cenceat⁹ omniod t̄nigres-  
siones forisfēu⁹ penas debit  
mesprisiones contemptus & im-  
petitōes p ipm Joh̄em ante nonū  
diem Nouembr vltimo p̄t cont⁹  
formam statutoꝫ de signis libertat⁹  
pannoꝫ & capucioꝫ ac retentōibꝫ

Henry by the grace of God  
King of England and France and  
Lord of Ireland to all bailiffs and  
their faithful men to whom the  
present letters shall come Greet-  
ing You must know that of our  
special grace and of our certain  
knowledge and mere motion we  
have pardoned remitted and re-  
laxed to John Collet lately of  
Northampton in the county of  
Northampton cordwainer other-  
wise called John Colit of North-  
ampton in the county [of North-  
ampton] shoemaker otherwise  
called John Colette of Northamp-  
ton yeoman otherwise called John  
Collett lately of Northampton  
labourer otherwise called John  
Colleyte lately of Duston in the  
county of Northampton husband-  
man otherwise called John Colete  
lately of Northampton in the  
county of Northampton tailor(?)  
or by whatsoever other name be  
may be known all kinds of tres-  
passes forfeits penalties debts  
misprisions contempts and im-  
peachments by him John before  
the ninth day of November last  
past against the form of the  
statutes concerning the emblems  
of the livery of clothes and hoods  
and concerning retinues whatso-

cattala felonū & fugitiuoꝝ &  
felonū de se deodand thesaurum  
inventum ac oꝩmod destrucciones  
& tꝩnsgresiones de viridi vel  
venatōe venditōe boscoꝝ infra  
foreſtas & extꝩ ante dēm nonū  
diem Novembr̄ infra regnū nřm  
Angl̄ et March̄ Watt einꝩs  
& euentꝩ vnde punitio ca-  
deret in demand debit seu in  
finem & redemptōem aut in alias  
penas pecuniarias seu in fori-  
ſcuꝝ bonoꝝ & catalloꝝ aut im-  
prisonamenta seu amciamenti  
Coitatum villaꝝ vel singularum  
pſonarum vel in onꝩatōem libi-  
teū eoꝝ qui nunqꝩ tꝩnsgreſſi  
fuerunt vt hered executoꝝ vel tꝩ-  
retentiū Escaetorꝝ vicecomitum &  
alioꝝ huiusmodi & oꝩne id quod  
ad nos vꝩſus ipm Johem ptinet seu  
ptinere poſlet ex causis supdictis  
Et insup pdonauim remisim & re-  
laxauim eidem Johi leias & leiaꝝ  
leias omnimod pſonaꝝ in guerra  
captoꝝ nob pgenitoribꝝ siue ante-  
cessoribꝝ nris quondam Regibꝝ  
Angl aut R thio nup de ſcō &  
non de iure Regi Angl seu eoꝝ  
Alicui dō nono die Novemb̄  
p eundem Johem qualitꝩ cumqꝩ  
debit ptinen siue spectan necnon  
omniod demand tꝩnsgresiones  
offenſas negligentias contemptus  
meſpri-

tels of felons and fugitives and  
suicides deodands treasure trove  
and all kinds of destructions and  
trespasses concerning vert or  
hunting selling of wood within  
forests and without before the  
said ninth day of November  
within our realm of England and  
the marches of Wales issuing  
and to issue whence punishment  
should be inflicted on due  
demand either by fine and re-  
demption or by other pecuniary  
penalties or by forfeitures of  
goods and chattels or imprison-  
ments or fines of communities  
towns or single persons or by  
obligation of free tenant (?) of  
those who have never done  
harm such as heirs executors or  
tenants of land escheators sheriffs  
and other persons of that kind  
and everything that pertains or  
can possibly pertain to us against  
the same John in the causes above-  
said And further we have par-  
doned remitted and relaxed to  
the same John the thirds and  
thirds of thirds of all kinds of  
prisoners taken in war to us our  
progenitors or ancestors formerly  
Kings of England or to Richard  
the Third lately actually and not  
lawfully King of England or to  
any one of them on the said  
ninth day of November by the  
said John in any way appertaining  
or belonging and also all kinds  
of demands trespasses offences  
negligences contempts mispri-

& impetitiones p ipm  
ante eundem nonū diem  
ab cont' formam tam  
imq; statutoz ordinatōum  
vitionū fact' sive edit  
iquisitionib; acceptatōib;  
& publicatōib; notificatōib;  
cutōib; quibuscumq; qua-  
traz & bullaz apostolicaq; &  
ioz statutoz & puisionū p-  
quoz aliqua secta v'ius  
m Johem p billam vel p  
pmunire fact seu alimodo  
nq; p aliqua māria ante  
nonū diem Novembr facta  
aleat qm quozcumq; alioz  
z fact siue ppetrat ante  
m nonū diem Novembr  
s ordinatōib; & puisionib;  
on obstantib; Prouiso semp  
ns pdonatio nra ad aliquos  
itores false monete in ali-  
e non extendat Jn cuius  
timoniū has traz nras fieri  
patentes. Teste me ipo  
Westm primo die Martij  
regni nri Etio &c

p ipm Regem  
Skyptoun

erics die ḡa Rex Ang  
nē et Dominus Hibn dittis  
ic Emion Wittmo Chambre  
t Haselwode Wittmo Herte-  
Rico Burton.

sions and impeachments by him  
John before the same ninth day  
of November against the form of  
whatsoever statutes ordinances  
and provisions made or issued  
concerning perquisites accept-  
ances lections publications noti-  
fications and excuses whatsoever  
and of whatsoever letters and  
bulls apostolic and all other  
statutes and provisions under  
pretext whereof any suit against  
the same John could be made  
by bill or by brief of pmunire  
or by any other way whatsoever  
for any matter done before  
the said ninth day of November  
as of whatsoever other statutes  
done or perpetrated before the  
same ninth day of November  
those statutes ordinances and  
provisions notwithstanding Pro-  
vided always that this our pre-  
sent pardon shall not extend in  
any way to any coiners of false  
money In testimony whereof we  
have caused these our letters to  
be made patent Witness myself  
at Westminster the 1st day of  
March in the 3rd year of our  
reign &c

By the King himself  
Skyptoun

Henry by the grace of God  
King of England and France and  
Lord of Ireland to his beloved  
Richard Emson William Cham-  
bre Thomas Haslewode William  
Hertewell and Richard Burton

[Folio 129a.]

Saltm̄ Sciatis qd cum Cōitates regni nri Angl̄ in parlimēto nro apud Westm̄ nono die Novem̄ vltimo p̄tito tento de auilamento & assentu dños sp̄ualiū & temporalium in eodem parlimēto nro auctoritate nra exisē ad honorē dei & p tuitōe & defensione dēi regni nri concesserint nob̄ quedam subsidia soluend & leuand modo & forma sequent .videt dequatt p̄sona artifice non nata infra dēm regnū nr̄m Angl̄ nec indigent fact hospitium tenente infra idem regnū sex solidos & octo denarios p̄p̄lis natis in Cris nr̄is Hiberni Wall Berwici & bund eiusdem Cales & March eiusdem & omib; insulis sub obediencia nra p̄p̄lis simili natis infra ducatos nros valton Aquitan & Norman tunc extitent & qui extunc erunt sub obediencia nra exceptis & reseruatis Et si due vel tres huiusmodi p̄sonae artifices vel plures in num̄o exceptis p̄ceptis in vna domo maneant vel aliquam cam̄am teneant qd quitt eaždem soluat dēum subsidiū sex solidos & octo denarioz. Et de qualt p̄sona non indigena non nata infra regnū dinum Cras insulas villas bund & marchi nra pdca seu sub

[Folio 129b]

Greeting You must know that whereas the communities of our realm of England in our parliament held at Westminster on the ninth day of November last past with the advice and assent of the lords spiritual and temporal in the same our parliament by our authority existing to the glory of God and for the protection and defence of our said realm granted to us certain subsidies to be paid and raised in the manner and form following that is to say from every handicraftsman not born within our said realm of England and not become indigent receiving hospitality within the same kingdom six shillings and eight pence people born in our lands of Ireland Wales Berwick and its bounds Calais and its marches and in all islands under our obedience and likewise people born within our duchies of Aquitaine and Normandy then being or who hereafter shall be under our obedience excepted and reserved And if two or three persons handicraftsmen of this kind or more in number except as before excepted shall abide in one house or shall occupy a chamber that every one of them shall pay the said subsidy of six shillings and eight pence And from every person not indigent not born within our realm dominion lands islands towns bounds and marches aforesaid or being under our

Intra existēn infra dēm  
in hospitiū non tenente  
duos solidos s'uien-  
tandrie omnino exceptis.  
aut p'ona non indigen-  
aliquam domū pand-  
vocal a Berehous-  
te infra hoc regnū  
in viginti solidos. Et  
quott Veniciano Italicō  
florentino Milenario  
Albtino & Lumbardo  
existēn Brocario seu  
attorū alicui eoždum non  
existēn infra dēum regnū  
uolt alio m'catore ex-  
cept' idem regnū ārm  
ep'tis p' except' hospitiū  
ut siorante intra dēum  
in p' spatiū triū mensum  
nta solidos dēis artificibz  
txatoribz inde exceptis  
ttis. Et de quott Venici-  
co Januensi florentino  
o Catellino Albtino &  
lo m'catore existēn vel  
attorū cuiuslt eož. Et de  
o m'catore ext'neo nato  
ini ducatus Jnulas villas  
Marchi ante dict' non  
comorante infra dēm  
& non hospitiū infra  
nente set siorante in  
p'co sub obedientia nra  
ttis m'catoribz ext'neis  
vel scoribz aut eož aliquo

obedience within our said realm  
not receiving hospitality within  
the same two shillings servants  
of husbandry altogether excepted  
And from every person not in-  
digent keeping any house of  
entertainment called a beerhouse  
within this our realm aforesaid  
twenty shillings And similarly  
from very merchant from Venice  
Italy Genoa Florence Milan  
Castile Albert and Lombardy  
being a broker or dealer or any  
attorney of the same not being  
indigent within our said realm  
And from every other foreign  
merchant born without our same  
kingdom except as above ex-  
cepted receiving hospitality or  
sojourning within our said realm  
for the space of three months  
forty shillings the said handi-  
craftsmen and innkeepers ex-  
cepted and reserved And from  
every man that is a merchant  
from Venice Italy Genoa Flo-  
rence Milan Castile Albert and  
Lombardy or the dealer and  
attorney of each one of them  
And from every other foreign  
merchant born without the do-  
minion duchies islands towns  
bounds and marches aforesaid  
not indigent staying within our  
said realm and not receiving  
hospitality within the same but  
sojourning in some place under  
our obedience with the afore-  
said foreign merchants brokers  
or dealers or any one of them

[Folio 130a.]

viginti solidos d̄cis sumis separalibz nob̄ soluend & leuand ad festum Pasche px futū. Et si aliquis Venicianus Italicus Januen-sis florentinus Milenarius Catelinus Albtinus vel Lum̄bdus antedict̄ vel alius ext̄neus natus ext̄ dominū ducatus Jnsulas villas bund & marchl antedict̄ comorans & exspectans infra dēm regnū n̄rm hospiciū se cam̄am non tenens vt p̄dēm est p̄ spatiū triū mentiū recedat ext̄ dēm regnū n̄rm anteqm̄ dēe sumē & eaꝝ quell nob̄ sint plenarie contente & solute modo vt p̄diciꝝ qd tunc p̄sona & p̄sona & eaꝝ quell cum quibz īpi sūint comorantes resi-dentes & frequentantes dēo nono die Novembr̄ onorabilis & on̄ata existat ac on̄abiles & on̄ate ex-istant cū & p̄ quatt̄ sūmaꝝ antedēaꝝ nob̄ p̄ quamit huiusmodi p̄sonam sic se diūten debit Nos volentes de p̄missis p̄ vos plenius c̄tiorari ac de subsidiis antedēcis ad dēm festum Paſche px futū fidelit̄ responderi necnon de fi-delitate & circumſpectōe vris plenius confidentes. Assignauiū vos coniunctim & diuīsim ad in-querend & pſcrutand om̄ibz viis modis & mediis quibz melius scūdit̄ aut pofitis in Com Nor̄tam infra libertates qm ext̄ de

twenty shillings The said several sums to be paid to us and raised by the feast of Easter next com-ing And if any man from Venice Italy Genoa Florence Milan Cas-tile Albert or Lombardy aforesaid or other foreigner born without the dominion duchies islands towns bounds and marches aforesaid dwelling and waiting within our said realm for hospitality but not having a chamber as is said above for the space of three months shall depart from our said realm before the said sums and every one of them be fully discharged and paid to us in the manner as is aforesaid that then the person and persons and each one of them with whom they had been dwelling residing and asso-ciating on the said ninth day of November shall be charged and liable with and for every one of the sums aforesaid to us from every person of this kind so de-parting due We desiring to be fully certified by you concerning the premisses and to be faithfully answered concerning the sub-sidies beforesaid at the said feast of Easter next coming and also confiding fully in your fidelity and circumspection have ap-pointed you jointly and severally to enquire and search out by all ways manners and means that you best know or can in the county of Northampton as well within the liberties as without

& singulis nōibz & psonis  
concessione specificata &  
in eādem psonaz exceptis  
otis cum huiusmodi pecuniaz  
s nob p ipas ptextu concess  
pdcedebit in scriptis redigēn  
ad inquisitōes inde distincte  
e fēas Theſ & Baronibz  
e sc̄cio ad festum pdem sub  
vris & sigillis eoꝝ p quos  
int mittend et ad aliquos  
fidedignos p collectōe &  
e suñaz antedētaꝝ secdm  
ōes vꝫas magis sufficentes  
and et assignand. Jta qd noꝝ  
m̄is pecuniaz antedēcis ad  
p̄dēu in forma p̄dēa fi  
respondeat Theſ & Barones  
sio nro p̄dēo de nōibz illoꝝ  
ad hoc deputauitis cit ſef  
p̄dēm distinctly & apte  
antes Et ideo vob mandam  
uni dilone postposita circa  
ad diligēt intendatis & ea fac  
equamini in forma p̄dēa.  
autem vniūfis & singulis  
mitibz maioribz Balliuſ  
tabularijs ac Alijs fidelibz  
ditis nris quibuscumq; tam  
libtates qm ext tenore  
jū

concerning all and singular the  
names and persons in the said  
concession specified and to put  
in writing the names of the same  
persons except as before excepted  
together with the sums of money  
of this kind due to us from them  
on pretext of the concession  
aforesaid and also to send the  
inquisitions made in this matter  
distinctly and openly to our  
treasurers and to our barons of  
the exchequer by the feast afore  
said under your seals and the  
seals of those by whom they  
were made and to depute and  
appoint some trustworthy men  
quite sufficient for the collecting  
and raising the sums aforesaid  
according to your discretions So  
that you faithfully answer to us  
concerning the sums of money  
aforesaid by the feast aforesaid  
in form aforesaid distinctly and  
clearly certifying the treasurers  
and barons of our exchequer  
aforesaid concerning the names  
of those whom you have deputed  
to this work before the feast  
aforesaid And so we command  
you putting aside all delay that  
you give your diligent attention  
about the premisses and do them  
and complete them in form afore  
said But we strictly give it in  
command to all and singular  
sheriffs mayors bailiffs constables  
and other our faithful men and  
subjects whatsoever as well with  
in the liberties as without by the

firmit̄ in mandatis qd vob̄ & cuit̄  
 vrm in executōe p̄ milloz pareant  
 obedient & intendant put docet.  
 Jn cuius rei testimoniū has trās  
 nras fieri fecim̄ patentes. T me  
 iþo apud Westm xxj die Januarij  
 Anno r̄ n̄ Regio

tenor of these presents that they  
 be submissive obedient and at-  
 tentive to you and to each one of  
 you in the execution of the  
 premisses as is fit In testimony  
 whereot we have caused these  
 our letters to be made patent  
 Witness myself at Westminster  
 the 21st day of January in the 3rd  
 year of our reign

Skypton

Skypton

HERE BEGINNETH THE STATUTE OF WYNCHESTRE <sup>236</sup>

[13TH EDWARD I STAT 2]

**F**OR alleſo muche that day bi day Manslawhters theftis Robberies  
 more often are don thanne were wonte to ben . And felones  
 ne moun nouȝt ben atteynte by othes of Jorous that more wyle-  
 fullike sufferen felonies done to Straunge men paſſen with outer  
 peyne . Than for to enditen the felouns And the mysdoers wher-  
 thorowe agrete ptie arne ffolke of contre or atte leſie . If the  
 mysdoers arn of other countre . her recytors arn of that contre .  
 And so done that thei it . for anne othe is nouȝt nor draden to the  
 iorours . Ne to the contre ther as the felonies arn don whan to  
 restitucion of harme peyne for to ne was nouȝt ordeyned . for her  
 concelyng and her slownes

**O**URE lorde the kyng for to abaten the drede of felouns soo  
 hath ordeyned a peyne in that case . So that for drede of the  
 peyne . more thanne for drede of her othe . To no man her by  
 forwarde not sparen nor none felonye concelen Comaundid hit is  
 that solemly be the crie made in alle Shires Hundreddes Chepynges  
 and ffeires And in alle suche othir stedis . Ther als solempne assemble  
 of folke shall ben Soo that no man by rekkeleschipe hym may  
 excusen . That eȝy contre so be kepte that anon ryght after  
 Robberies ar felonies done . Be made freſh ſute from toun to  
 toun . from fraunchise to fraunchise . And enquestes also be done  
 if myster be in tounes . Bi hym that is ſouȝn of the toun And

<sup>236</sup> This transcript is very different from the Act, as printed in the Statutes <sup>2</sup>  
 Large, being here much abbreviated.

astur in hundredes and in fraunchises . and Shires . And othir while  
in two or in thre or in foure shires . Soo that the myidoers moun  
ben ou taken . And sufferen in wise And if the contre of suche man<sup>2</sup>  
myidoers ne answere not . The peyne shall be siche in eþy contre .  
that is for ieyne . folke dwellyng in contres shall ensweren of  
roburies and of harmes done soo that in alle the hundred ther as  
the Robberie shalle be done . With the ffranchyfes that arne  
within the p̄vriute of the same hundred sholn answeren of the  
Robberie that is done . And if the Robberie be done in deptyng of  
hundred so sholn answeren bothe hundred w' her ffranchyfes that  
with Jnne the p̄sentes ben . And no longer terme shall haue the  
contre astur the Robberie or the felonie done . But halse a yere .  
With Jnne the which it be hoveth hem to make gree of the Robberie  
and of the myidoing And that thei answeren of the bodies of the  
myidoers . And for allso muche that the kyng wyllnott that folke ben  
fodeynly made poerer . of this peyne that semeth harde to some folke .  
Graunteh that hit ne be anon Right over Runnen . But taketh the  
peyne in respite tille the Esterne next comyng . And with in suche  
sterme shall the kyng sende how the contre shall beren hem And  
tynten of syche Robberies and felonies . Aftur whiche terme alle be  
they c̄teyne that eþy ȝere shall renne in this peyne genally . That  
is for to seyne folke in Countre dwellyng shall answeren of Rob-  
beryes and felonies done in her Countre . The kyng hath  
comaundid that in grete tounes that arnn closed with walles . That  
the yates ben shitte from the sonne goyng down till the sonne  
Rysyng And that no man herberow hym in subbarbes . but if it be  
daye . Nor on daie but the hoste wyll for hym Answeren . And the  
baillifs of tounes ilke bi hym selue eþy woke or atte the leste eþy  
guynseyn do maken enquestes . of men herberowed in subbarbes or  
in the foreyn chef of tounes . And if thei fynden any herberger  
that Keseyneth folke or herborowe folke Ageyne the peas . so to do  
the bailliffs Rightfulnesse And from hens forwarde is comaundid  
that wachyng on nyghtes to be os thei were wonte be fore  
lyme . That is for to seyne . from hooly thorsdaye tille michelmaile  
in eþy Citee with . vj . men at eþy yate . And in eþy Burgh by  
vj men . And in eþy hole toun by vj men or bi foure Aftur the  
numbr of folke that dwellen and make the wache cōunly all  
the nyghte . ffrom the sonne goyng doun tille the Rysyng vpon  
the morowe And if any straunge man passe by hem . Be he Arres-  
ted tille on the morowe . And if thanne noo susspecioune be founde

[Folio 131b.]

[Folio 132a.]

[Folio 132b.]

of hym that is attached .Goo he quyte .And if me fynde suspiciois be he delyued to the Sherrefe anon Right .And with owten daunger he hym Resleyne and wisely him kepe till he in due man'e be delyued .And he ne suffur not to ben arrested .Be honthes rered vpon hem .And tho that arn kepers of the toun

[Folio 133a.]

Hem sewen with alle the toun and with neyghbores of tounes .with owte hes from toun to toun tille he be taken and delyued to the Shirrue os it is seide be forne .And for the arrestyng of suche straunge folke no man ne be enchesoned Comaundid hit is allso that the hye weyes of tounes che-pynge ben from hens forwarde enlarged ther os it is wode hegges buskes or dikes so that ther be no podell vnderwode or buskes Ther als men moun darken to yvell don nexte the weye by .CC fete and CC fete on that other halfe .Soo that this statute neyther be abated ne alarged .tille that it be clere above and by nethe .And if bi defaute of the lorde be that he wyll nott .podell vnder wode .ne buskes do doun in the forme as it is be forside .And if Roberes ben done .soo answere the lorde .And if ther murtheryng be done be the lorde areymed at the kynges wyle

[Folio 133b.]

And if the lorde ne suffiseth not to don down vndurwode so shall the cuntry hym helpyn to done it .And the kyng will that in his demeyne londes and wodes with Jnne forest and with owten that weyes ben enlarged os it is be foreseide .And if parke be nye the hye weye so cōmaundeth that the lorde of the parke make laſſe his parke till he haue the brede of CC fete .of wey os it is be foreseide .Or that he make such adike walle or hegge .That mydoers ne moun passen nor comen .It is ordeyned also that euy man haue in his house Armure for to kepe the peas after the olde assise That is for to seyne .that euy man by twixe xv .wyntur and .lx .ben assised and sett and sworne aftur the quantite of her londes and of her Catell .That is for to seyne at xv li of land and at Catell of xl marke haburioun hatte of Jren spere and horſe and knyf at x pounde of lande .and at Catell xx<sup>4</sup> marke haburioun salett swerd and knyf .

[Folio 134a.]

And who laſſe hath than .xli of londe be thei sworne at Gyānyes .knyfs and other small Armur and wepenes at xli of lande and more tille hit come tille an Cs bowes Arowes Swyrdes and knyfs And whos laſſe hath of Catell than .x .marke Swirde knyf and other smale wepenes .And all other that may haven bowes and arowes oute of the foreste .And with Jnne bowes and spors

And that sight of wepenes be made twise in the ȝere. And in euy ffraunchise hundred be chosen two Constables to make the syght of wepons And the forseide Constables presenten before the Justices assigned whan thei sholn comen into contre The defautes that thei haue founden of wepenes slownes of oute of tounes of weyes & þementis Aliso of folke that herborouen straunge men in tounes of vpland for which thei wylnot answeren And the Justices Asaigned in euy pliment repfenten to the kyng and the kyng ther vpon shall make amendis. And welle oue see from hens forwarde Shirreues and baillifs with Jnne fraunchises and with owtene more and latte That bailli in storerie hauen in fee or in other man'e that thei sewen and folowen the cry with cuntrie and astur that thei arnn that thei hauen hors and armur therto made. And if ther be any that willnot be the defautes presented bi the Constables to the Justices assigned And astur that by hem the kynge os it is be foreseide. And the kyng comaundeth and defendith That ffeire nor chepyng from hense forwarde not be holden in Chirchezerdis for the worshipe and the honoure of god and of holychirche. Youen at Wynchestre the viij daie of Septembris<sup>337</sup> the ȝere of the kyng Edward . xiiij<sup>a</sup> &c

[Folio 134b.]

Hoc script sub  
script per me  
Georgium  
Coldwellam

THE CHATRE OF THE FFRAUNCHISE OF NORTHAMPTON.<sup>338</sup>

[CHARTER OF 27TH EDWARD I.]

**E**DWARD THOROW THE GRACE OF God kyng of Englund and [Folio 135a.] lord of Irelonde . and Duke of Acquitayne to Arscbebyshoppis Bisshopis . Abbotis Priours Erles . Baronnys . Justices Shirreues Reues Mynistres and Baillifs and to his trewe gretith well . We haue oueyn the Chartur whiche of noble memorie and mynde . Sir . H . som tyme kyng of Englund oure ffadir made to the Burgeis of Northampton vpon theise wordes<sup>340</sup> [H]enry thorouȝ the grace of god kyng of Engelond lorde of Irelond Duke of Normandye and of Acquitayne Erle of Andag to Archebisshoppis Bisshopis Abbotis Priours Erles Barons . Justices . Shirreues Reues Ministres and to all Baillifs and to his trewe sent gretynge . Wite ye vs haue graunted

<sup>337</sup> This statute was made the 8th October, 1285, the date inserted here is incorrect.

<sup>338</sup> This George Coldwell was, no doubt, the town clerk. He is hereinafter mentioned on page 430.

<sup>339</sup> This charter, confirming the charters of 11th and 41st Henry III., is hereinbefore printed in English on page 56.

<sup>340</sup> Charter of 11th Henry III.

and with this oure p<sup>r</sup>esent chart<sup>r</sup> haue consermed . To our Burgeis of Norht that none of hem may emplede oute of the wallis of the Burgh of Northamptōn . of any plee oute take the plees of owte holdynges . oute take Moneo's and our Ministres . Wee haue [Folio 135b.] graunted alio te hem Acquytyng of Murdre with Jnne the Burgh and in portesoken . And that non of hem make bataile oñ ageyn another . And that of tho plees to the Croune longyng . hem mown thei disresouner astur the custume and viage of the Cytizens of the Cite of london . And that thei w<sup>t</sup> Jnne the walles of the burgh no man take In nor herborowe by strenght ne by delyuance of the kynges maresshall . And that all the burgeis of Norht ben quyte of Tolle and of laftage by all Engelonde and the havenes of the See . And that no man of am<sup>c</sup>yment of catell be aiuged but astur the lawe which hauen our Citiȝeyns of london in tyme of H . kyng our Ayel . And that in that Burgh in non plee be myskennynge . And that an husteng only in the weke be holden . And that they hauen Rightfully her londes her holdynges her weddes . and all her dettis . who so hem owen . And that of her landes and holdynges with Jnne the Burgh ben Right to hem be Holden Astur the viages of the Burgh . And of alle her dettis that lent ben at Norht . And of weddis ther made and leide plees at Norht be thei holden . And if ther be any in all Engelond Tolle or custome of þe men of Norht had taken . sithen that he of Right had defayled . The Reue or the Baillifs of Norht withernome ther offen at Norht shall taken . Therwith also to amendyng of that ilke Burgh to hem we haue graunted . That thei ben quyte of Brudtoll and of Gyldwitz and of ȝeretȝeu . and of Scotage . So that the Reue of Norht or any other Bailif not make non Scotage theise be fore named Custumes to hem we haue graunten . And all other fraunchises and ffree custumes . which hadden oure Citiȝenes of london whan thei hem hadden bett and most freest in tyme of forseide H . kyng oure aiell . astur the fredomes of london and the lawes of the Burgh of Norht . And therfor we willen & stedsafly cōmaunden that thei and her heires alle theise thynges by heritage hauen and holden of vs and of oure heires zeldyng by yere . c . xxii in noumbr of the toun of Norht with all the appurtenauns at oure Chekker in the terme of Seint Michell by the hand of the Reue of Norht . and the Burgeis of the toun of Norht . Sholn maken the Reue whom thei wyllyn of hem selue by ȝere That be couenable to vs and to hem in this maner That is to sayne that the forseid Burgeis of Norht by the cōmonn counsele of

[Folio 136a.]

[Folio 136b.]

the fame tounthippe sholn Chosen tweyne of the most lawfull and wyllest Burgesis of her toun And thei sholn p<sup>r</sup>esent hem by her patent letters to oure chefe Justice at Westm<sup>t</sup> that well and trewly shall kepen the puosterie of Norht . And ne be thei remued . Als longe as thei hem in her baillis hadden born . But bi the cōmun counseile of her tounthipe . We wyllyn also that in the fame Burgh of Norht by the cōmun conseile of the same toun be chosen foure of the most lawfull and wyllest men of the Burgh to kepe the plees of oure Coronne . And other thynge that to vs longen in the same Burgh . And for to seen that the Reves of the same Burgh Rightwilly and truely treten And drawen als well the pore as the riche As the Chart<sup>r</sup> of Sir John the kyng our fadir which theroffen they hauen witnessith Resonably Theire wittnesses worshipfull faders Joscelyn Bathon R Sa<sup>r</sup> bishoppes and other . 3ouen bi the hond of worlhipfull fadir . R Cices<sup>r</sup> bishopp our Chaunceler the yere of our Reigne elleueneth

(Folio 137a.)

ANOTHER CHARTUR <sup>341</sup>

E hauen also ouſeyn another Chart<sup>r</sup> the which the forſeid oure fadry also made to the forſeid Burgesis in Theire wordes Henry thorough the grace of god kyng of Engelond . lorde of Irelond . Duke of Normandy . Acquytayne and Erle of Andeg to Erchebifhoppis Bifhoppes . Abbotis P<sup>r</sup>ours Erls Baronns . Justices Shirreues Reues Mynistres and all baillifs and his trewe ſent gretynge . Wite þe vs haue graunted and with this our p<sup>r</sup>efent Chart<sup>r</sup> haue conſermed to our burgesis of Norht . That thei and the heyres of hem for eu<sup>r</sup> hauen pleyne Returne of alle oure Writtis Als well of ſomonis of oure Chekker os of other The forſeid Burgh and the fſraunceſe of that towchyng . And that thei anſweren by her handes at oure Chekker of allman<sup>d</sup> dettis ſomonis and aſkynges hem towchyng . So that if any ſhirreue or other baillif or our Ministr from hem forwarde entre that Burgh . to any diſtreſſes ſomonis or oþir thyngeſ to done . That longeth to her office but in deſauſe of hem or of her heyres And that thei hauen Infangenthel and that non of hem emploede oute of the Walles of þ<sup>r</sup>burgh but of foreyn holdynges .

(Folio 137b.)

<sup>340</sup> Charter of 41st Henry III.<sup>341</sup> David Owen was, no doubt, the town clerk.

Or also of any trespasses made in the same burgh. But upon thyng oure Right and oure psonne towchynge And that the forseide burgh ne ben not atteynte by any foreynes upon any appeles Rightfulles Wrongs .trespasses .blames .chalenges or alynges putte to hem or shulde ben putte .but only by her owne comburgeis .but of sum thyng touching the cōmun of the same Burgh .And thanne in that Case be thei ladde astur her ffranchises approved and tille

[Folio 138v.]

testat

same Burgh be herborowed in the same burgh with his marchaundise But of the leve and the wylle of the bailliffs of the same Burgh .So as hit sholde be done and was wonte in tyme of oure pdecessours kynges of Engelond And that thei moun distresse maken with Inne the forseide Burgh for her dettis So as hiderto hath be done and was wonte .We haue grauntid to hem that if any of hem Where som eū in our Realme testat or vntestat dyen The heyres of hem the godis of hem dede fully may hauen als fer os her heires Reasonably may shewen Tho godis to ben of the forseide dede .And that thei nor her godis ben not Arrested Any where ellis in oure Realme Nor that tho godis not lefeyn .for any trespasses of her seruauntis .And that thei may sien the ffredomes be fore named conteyned in this our Chartyr whan so eū thei wyllyn .All thow som tyme to hem was not sooo We haue grauntid to hem also that thei and her heyres haue alle the ffredomes to hem be fore to grauntid by oure chartor and bi

[Folio 138v.]

the chartours of our pdecessours kynges of Engelond .So as to hem Reasonably s̄it hedertowarde han vſed .And therfore we willen and stedfastly we cōmaunden for vs and for oure heires .That the forseid burgeis and her heyres for eue hauen the forseide ffranchises .And we defenden upon oure forseytur that no man hem ageynes this our graunte in anythyng distroble or make adrad .Theyſe witnesſes Gefferey of leyum and William of Valenç oure brethern and oþir .ȝouen by oure hande at Westm̄ the xxviiiij day of Januař In the yere of our Reigne xlj We for ſothe the forſeide grauntes hanne ſermed and ſtable and worthi hem for vs and for our heyres In allio moche as in vs is to the forſeide burgeis And to her heires and to other her ſuccesſours Burgeis of the ſame toun for eū more wee haue graunten and confermyn Also the forſeide Charters Reasonably witnesſen We haue graunted alſo for vs and for oure heyres to the forſeide Burgeis that thei & heires and her Succesſours eū ſere for eumore At

the fest of Seynt Michaell monn chosen a Mayre and two Bailliffs  
of hem seluen . And hym that thei hauen to be maire p̄senten at  
our chekker with Jnne the Octaues of the forseid ffest . Which  
that ther shall maken his othe of tho thyngē that to the office of  
mayrialte longen . Trewly to done execucion whiche maire and  
Baillifs alle the plees of the ffraunchise of the forseide toun  
towchyngh sholn holden and haunten so as by the baillifs of the  
same toun in tymes that arn̄ paſſed was wonte to be done . Theiſe  
wittneſſes worshipfull fadres A Dunolm Wynton and Saʒ bishoppis .  
Henry Lacy Erle of Lynclon and other . youen by oure honde at  
Caunturbury the xxvij<sup>th</sup> of maij the ȝere of Reigne Seuen and  
twenty .

[Folio 139a.]

<sup>343</sup> [T]ruely We hauyng forseide grauntes in oure mynde pleased  
and writyng pleafid ſoo to be Admitted for vs & oure heyres . As  
myche as in vs is We graunte to the forſeide Burgeſſes and theiſe  
heyres . And other ſuccelours to theym burgeſſes and their heyres  
ppetually to Abyde . We nat oonly graunte hit But Allſo Anctecteuſly  
We conferme hit lyke maner As the forſaide p̄ſtent confermyd  
Chartours bere wittnes . furthermore we wylyng haſe graunted to  
the forſeide Burgeſſes . Amore bountuous grace in this partie .  
And Allſo hath confermyd hit with this oure p̄ſent Chartoure . That  
is to ſey though hit bee that the ſeide Burgeſſis or any of theiſe  
forſeid burgeſſes in Any Caſe happenyng have nat fully vied oon or  
any of the forſeide ffraunches or graces or lybtees grauntid be  
ony of oure noble p̄genitours to this tyme or any quietanc . Nott  
withſtondyng We will that the forſeide Burgeſſes and theiſe heyres  
and other for to come ſuccelours Burgeſſes of the ſeide town of  
Norhampton ſhall En Joye & vſe theiſe lybties and quietanc Affore  
graunted in oon and all withoute ony impedyment of vs or of oure  
heyres justic Elchetoures Shreviffē or other bailliff; or ony other of  
oure Officiers what ſomeu<sup>9</sup> thei bee . And more ovr we will make  
more larger knowlech vnto the forſeide town in what flavoure we  
haue theym burgeſſes and their heyres and ther ſuccelours . And  
what large; lybties we haue grauntid theym in this oure p̄ſent  
Chartour with oure greate confirmation for vs and our heyres And  
this we wylle & graunte and conferme that they haue very

[Folio 139b.]

[Folio 140a.]

<sup>343</sup> This portion is taken from the charter of 8th Richard II., although the commencement of that charter is not given.

knowlech of all plees . And of all man<sup>2</sup> of Aſſizes And of all other plees that happen or befall within the forſeide town of Norhampton And the Subbarbis of the ſeide town of Norhampton . All theiſe plees And Aſſizes we graunte & conſerme to be holden and pleted Aſfore the Mayre and Baillifs, of the ſeide town for that tyme beyng in the Gyldehalle of the forſeide toun ppetuall to be contynued . We will Allio that the maire of the ſeide toun for the tyme beyng , have in ppetuall the kepyng in the ſeide toun and Subbarbis of the fame toun of Aſſize of brede wyne and Ale and Allio correcc̄ion & punyſhment of the fame . Allio with fyndes and Amercyamentis that may be Reiſed therof to turne to the proſett and vſe of the Comynalte of the toun and the Subbarbis of the fame toun . Allio we graunte to the maire for the tyme beyng . Acyces and kepyng of Aſſizes and oulght of meſures weightes in the toun And in the Subbarbis Aſſorſeide of Norhampton . Aſwell in oure plenſe As in oure Abſence And of oure heires . Allio wee graunte that the maire for the tyme beyng . That he ſee and duely examyne And preve all meſures and weightes . And thoo that he ſees and proves fiaſſie to burne theym dampne and diſtroye them And to ordeyne true and ſeall & marke lawfull meſures and weyghtes Accordyng to oure lawes . And not oonly this we graunte And gysſe full power that the mayre for the tyme beyng leſſfully and rightwiſly Correcte & punyſhe thoffendours and brekers of oure lawfull ordeyned meſures and weightes . We graunte and licence the meyre thus to doo As well in oure plenſe As in our Abſence or ony of oure heires As often as nede is ſo to doo . And as hit ſemyth the mayre for the tyme beyng Reſonably ſoo to Correcte And punyſhe . Allio we graunte & conſerme to the Mayre for the tyme beyng to haſe power ppetually in all thiſ ſforſettis . Aſfore Reherſed And the correcc̄ions as well in our plenſe As in our Abſence . And nott oonly thoo Aſfore Reherſed but Allio we graunte theym full power to ſerche Inquirc And to knowe of All florſtallers and Regraters of oure mercatis And ſtetted Shamellis fleſhis Rotyn . And vnlawful fyndes And vicious vitaille not Accordyng to oure lawes nor the weall of oure liege people for theiſe bodyly profet within the toun and subbarbis of the ſeide town of Norhampton . We confideryng graunte to the maire for the tyme beyng full power to correcte punyſhe And governe All theiſe pmyted offensis And for too Reiſe fyndes with ſforſettis & Am̄cyAmentis And other vailes that may be Reiſed of the ſeid offensis to tourne to the vayle of the ſeid Comynalte And Subbarbis of the ſeid town of

Norhampton . Also We graunte and gyffie full power to the maire for the tyme beyng Too fforbidde . And Also we fforbidde chargith And also cōmaunde that the Clerke of the Merket nor non other of oure officers or of oure heires In no maner of wise intromytte hym to hafe Adoo with ony Cavie or mater that parteynyth or longith too Correccions of Any p̄mised offensis or fflawtis of Mesures Weightes . Assises or fforfettis of vitaille wyne or Ale fleshe or fyshe or ony thyng that pteynyth to the office of the Clerke of the Merket But that the Maire for the tyme being hafe the ffull power in his owne execucyon This witnessth worshipfull fadars .William Tharsbifhope of Caunterbury Primate of England

## TEMPE JOHIS SAXBY MAIORIS

[Folio 141b.]

[IN THE TIME OF JOHN SAXBY<sup>244</sup> MAYOR.]

M<sup>t</sup> that at a Councell holden in the Guyhald of the Toun of Norh<sup>m</sup>pton the Mondaie [4th December, 1531] next aft the feast of Seint Andrew Thappostell in the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> yere of the Reigne of kyng Henry the eight BY THASSENT & concsent of John Saxby maio<sup>r</sup> of the seid toun of Norhampton Thoms Chipsey Wilm Bond Richard Syxion Richard Bows John Bugby & John Motte late maio<sup>s</sup> of the same ffor many & diūse consideracons misbehavynge & lewde demeanours of Thoms Wodward late of Norh<sup>m</sup>pton asurfeid rācer & Richard Johnson of the same rācer it is there ffullly delmyned condecnid and agrede by the seid Councell that the seide Wodeward & Johnson is & for eu shalbe Dysmylid & discharged excludid & put out of the Court & Councell of the seid toun of Norh<sup>m</sup>pton & neu to be somoned ne takyn for any of the<sup>245</sup> Company of the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> Comburgesses of the same toun Also that the seide Wodward & Johnson shalle neu haue place ne seit w<sup>i</sup>n the Court of the same toun where as other the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> Comburgenses do alweile sitt that is to say w<sup>i</sup>n the barris comynly callid the Chequer of the seid Court FFERTERMOR it is condecnid and hooly agrede by the seid Councell that if any of the forfeid late maio<sup>s</sup> whch affore this tyme have byn

[Folio 142a.]

<sup>244</sup> John Saxby, or Saxbee, was mayor of the town in 1509-10, 1520-1, and 1532-3.

<sup>245</sup> The words:—" William Hampton the Company of the Comburges" are written in a later hand, on the top of the page.

maio's of the seid toun or that hereaf<sup>t</sup> shalbe maio's of the same So at eny tyme hereaf<sup>t</sup> Admytt take Sōmon or calle the seid wodward & Johnson or either of theym to be of the seid Court or Councell w/out that it be by thasent & concert of the maio<sup>r</sup> for the tyme beyng & all other his breth' en wiche haue byn maio's of the same That then who so eū he be that so offendith doth the contrarie unto this o<sup>r</sup> p̄sent acte & dede shalle lose the some of tene pounde f<sup>l</sup>linge halfe therof to be forfeit to the [Folio 142b.] maio<sup>r</sup> for the tyme beyng & the other halff to the Chamber of the seid toun w/out any fau<sup>e</sup> of Redempcon theym to be shewid MOREOU<sup>d</sup> it is alio agrede & ffluy defmyned that if the seid Wodward & Johnson or any of theym p̄iume or take opon theym in eny tyme to come to the contrarie of this p̄sent o<sup>r</sup> acte & dede that then thei or any of theym shalle lose & pare fyve pounde f<sup>l</sup>yinge halfe therof to the maio<sup>r</sup> for the tyme beyng & the other halfe to the chamber afforied AND that this o<sup>r</sup> p̄sent acte & dede to be recorded & regestrid in the Records of o<sup>r</sup> seid court & there emongs al other Record<sup>e</sup> to remayne for eū In witnes wherof J the forseid John Saxby maio<sup>r</sup> w<sup>t</sup> al other my brethern be fore named to this p̄sent o<sup>r</sup> deds we haue sett o<sup>r</sup> Names w<sup>t</sup> o<sup>r</sup> owen hande the daie & yer abouseid

John Saxby Maior

Thoms Shippsey Wyllm Bond

Richard Bowyes x Richard Dyxson

John Bucky

□ John Motte

#### TEMPE RIC<sup>I</sup> JOHNSON MAIOR &c

[Folio 143a.]

[IN THE TIME OF RICHARD JOHNSON <sup>144</sup> MAYOR &c]

<sup>347</sup> M<sup>4</sup> that a counsell holden in the Guyhald of the toun of Norh<sup>a</sup>mpton the xxij daie of Nouembr [1544] in the xxxvj yer of the reigne of o<sup>r</sup> souaigne lord Henry the eight by the grace of God of england france & Irlanckyng Dfender of the seith & in erthe the sup<sup>me</sup> hed of the Churche of England & Ierland By the assent & concert of Richard Johnson maier of the seid toun John Saxby Thoms Shipsey Laurence Manley John

<sup>344</sup> Richard Johnson was mayor of the town in 1545-6.

<sup>347</sup> As much of this ordinance as is contained on this folio (143a) has been cancelled in the Liber.

Motte Laurence Wasthyngton Richard Wilkinson Nicholas Band  
 Willm Walgier Henry Neile John Brightmen John Bowers Antony  
 Brian & Cristofer Barnar maiers of the seide toun of Norht for  
 many mis behauyng lewid Demeaneurs pverse actions and dius  
 other vrgent causes considerations her testifid practisid & comyttid  
 sterid & done as well within the seide toun of Norhampton os  
 wthout to the great detryment p*ro*uidice sclaunder & hurt aswel of  
 the same toun & lidties of the same as alio to the gret damage  
 hurt vexacon & troble of many Jnhabitants of the same toun &  
 other the kynges subiects diuse sondry waies by Willm Rugby of  
 Norhampton tann<sup>o</sup> John Horpole of the same tann<sup>o</sup> & Willm Old-  
 ham of the same corio<sup>r</sup> Iit is therfor fully determinyd condi-  
 cendid & agreed by hole assent and concet of the seide maior &  
 other before named his brethern late maiors of the seid toun  
 beyng congregate to gether in Councell in the seid Guyhald the  
 daie & yere aboue writyn that from hensforthe the seid Willm  
 Rugby John Horpole Willm Oldam and e<sup>t</sup>ly of theym be is &  
 shalbe dylymisdischargid excludid & clerly putt out bothe of this  
 court & councell of the seid toun of Norht and nether to be  
 sommyd reputid acceptid or taken ineny man<sup>o</sup> of place assamble  
 or going for eny of the company of xxiiij<sup>o</sup> comburgesses of the  
 seid toun or of the xlviij<sup>o</sup> of the same and also that they & e<sup>t</sup>ly of  
 theym shall neu haue eny place or feet w*th*in the seid toun or  
 court as other of the Nomber of xxiiij<sup>o</sup> or xlviij<sup>o</sup> hath alweiste had  
 or hathe byn accustomed to haue But that they & e<sup>t</sup>ly of theym  
 be and shalbe from hensforthe Reputed accepted & takyn in lyke  
 man<sup>o</sup> as though they had neu borne office w*th*in the seide toun  
 or callid to eny Councillor elleccioun as other of the seid  
 xxiiij<sup>o</sup> or xlviij<sup>o</sup> ought to be reputid somoned callid accept &  
 takyn w*th*in the seid toun And fferthermor that the seid Willm  
 Rugby John Horpolle and Willm Oldam ne any of theym  
 shall from hensforthe p*ro*vily or apertly resort repaire or come  
 to the seid Ri<sup>c</sup> Johnson now Maior or eny his succellours to  
 gyve councell either by word or writyng or comenly to frequent &  
 haunt the Company of the seide Ri<sup>c</sup> Johnson now maio<sup>r</sup> or eny of  
 his Succello<sup>s</sup> or to take opon theym or eny of theym or to  
 p*ro*ume to the contrarie of eny article clause act thyng or thynge  
 before prisid dymysid forbyden & excepted fferthermor it is also  
 agreeed & delmyned by the seid Ri<sup>c</sup> Johnson & his brethern before  
 named by one hole assent & concet of theym al in this p*ro*sent

[Folio 143b.]

[Folio 144a.]

council assenblid that if the seid Wm Bugby John Horpoll & Wm Oldam or eny of theym from hensforthe p'sume attempt or take opone them or any of theym to the contrarie of eny article clause act or thynge beforemencioned det'myned & agreed ageynst theym or eny of theym that then they & eny of theym shall Incurre forfeit lose & paie for euy offence by them or eny of theym committed & don to the contrarie of eny article or clause comprised in this p'sent acte of counseill of the seid toun of North of the behalfe of

(Folio 144b.) the seid Wm Bugby John Horpoll and Wm Oldam ccluded det'myned and agreed as is afforeseid fyve pounde s'lyng Wherof

the one moyte or halfendeth to be the maior of the seid toun for the tyme beyng & other half to the Ch'mber of the seid toun to be emploied to the repaireng of the pavymet of the same toun moreou' it is condescendid & fully agreeede by the seid councell w' one hoole assent & consent that if any of the forieid maio's or their Successo's do at eny tyme heraff' receyve admytt somon call or take the seid Wm Bugby John Horpelle and Wm Oldam or eny of theym to be of the seid court counsell or nombre of xxiiij<sup>l</sup> or xlviij<sup>l</sup> or do pmyt repute or take theym as eny of the seid nombre in any man<sup>g</sup> of assenbley or goyng w/out it be by the hole assent & consent of the maio's for the tyme beyng and al his brethern that haue byn maio's by like councell assenblid as afforeseid That then the seid maio's & his brethren & ev'y of theym that do attempt to do contrarye to this p'sent act before detmyned shall incurre loie forfeit & paie the sume of tenne pounde s'lyng the one hal thereof to be to the kyng<sup>e</sup> maiestie or sou'eigne lord his heires & successours and the other half therof to the Ch'mber of the seid toun towards the pavimente of the same as is afforeseid and that this p'sent act shalbe Recorded and Regestred in the Record<sup>e</sup> of the seid toun of Northampton and ther emonge al other Record<sup>e</sup> of the seid toun to Remayne for eu'r In witnesse wherof the Richard Johnson Maio<sup>e</sup> & al other his brethren before named to this p'sent act have put to their Sigmanuell the daie & yer aboueseid

John winifld of to Cockermont in Northumberland xl days in temp

(Folio 145b.)

Jnquiratur p Dño Rege si  
Thomas Hartishorne Juā de North  
in Com North Thomas Laurence

Let it be enquired for our  
Lord the King if Thomas Har-  
tishorne junior of Northampton  
in the county of Northampton  
Thomas Laurence of Northamp-

Namptton in Comitatu  
xcher Wittms Thomson  
in eodm coñ bocher et  
yryell de eadm in eodm  
ier et Riœus Hudson de  
eadm Gardynner secundo  
arij anno 77 Henrici sep-  
tdecimo vi & armis videt  
iculis & cultellis in Tho-  
shm apud Norht p'dicē in  
A insultm fecerunt & ipm  
Higham ad tunc & ibm  
unt vulnerauerunt et  
stauerunt Jta qd de vita  
abat contra pacem dēi  
s &c

ton in the county of Northampton  
butcher William Thomson of the  
same in the same county butcher  
and Richard Myryell of the same  
in the same county butcher and  
Richard Hudson of the same in  
the same county gardener on  
the 2nd day of February [1498]  
in the 13th year of the reign of  
King Henry the 7th with force  
and arms that is to say with  
swords sticks and knives made  
an assault upon Thomas Higham  
at Northampton aforesaid in the  
county aforesaid and him Thomas  
Higham then and there beat  
wounded and ill-treated so that  
he despaired of his life contrary  
to the peace of the said Lord the  
King &c

homas Hupton

colloqum gen'ale ten⁹ in  
die Ven⁹is px post ffin  
is Archi Anno 77 Henrici  
ix⁹ p Johem Solle Maior  
n suu et totas Cōitas eius-  
e uni Assent⁹ & concens⁹  
trunt in forma sequent  
patet in lingua mañna

At a general conference held  
in the Guildhall on Friday [4th  
October, 1493] next after the  
feast of S Michael the Arch-  
angel in the ninth year of the  
reign of King Henry the 7th by  
John Solle mayor and his council  
and the whole community of the  
same town with unanimous assent  
and consent they ordained in  
form following that is to say as  
appears in the mother tongue

sit pvidid Alwey that yf eny bocher of the toun of Norht  
maner of hide or hydes but Allonly within the p'cynete  
Bochery of the seide toun. And he that doth the contrary  
prose therof made by Wytnesse That psone or psones that  
adyth and trespassith to paye to the meire & Chaumbr for

the tyme beyng iijs iiijd And Amercyment to the bailiffs of xiijd  
for euy hyde or hydes soo sole w'toute the p'cyncte of the forseid  
bochery this Acte and statue may stonde for Alawe eumore for to  
Abyde &c

[Folios 146a, 146b, and 147a are blank, on folio 147b is  
written :—]

George Colewell<sup>348</sup>  
Anno Domini 1611  
Tobie Colewell<sup>349</sup> towne clerke  
in the yeare of ou'r lord god  
1621

John Cuifford  
John Chuifford  
Beniermin Colewell  
is my name with my penne  
John Chuifford

[END OF LIBER CUSTUMARUM.]

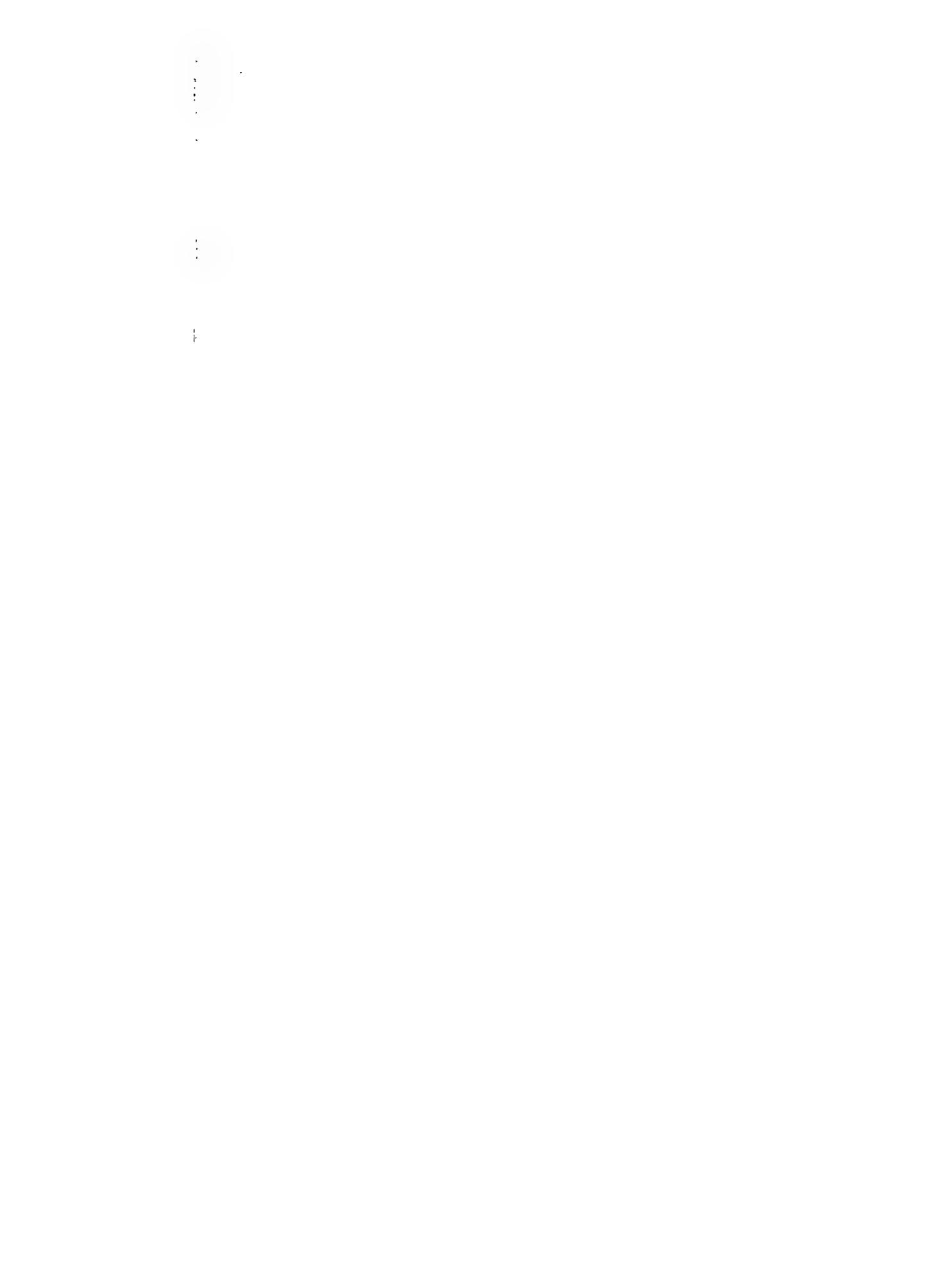
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<sup>348</sup> George Coldwell, or Colewell, evidently the town clerk, is hereinbefore mentioned on page 419.

<sup>349</sup> Tobias Coldwell, or Colewell, is mentioned as the town clerk in the letters patent of 16th James I., hereinbefore printed on page 133.



This initial M is a reproduction of that on the charter of 1st and 2nd Philip and Mary, hereinbefore printed on page 118.



Schedule of  
Public, Local, and Private  
Acts of Parliament relating  
to the  
County Borough of Northampton.



## 9<sup>th</sup> Henry VI.

1431.

An Act for Paving and Repairing certain Highways and Streets within the Town of Northampton.

This statute is hereinbefore mentioned on page 75, and hereinbefore printed in Norman-French on page 283, and in English on page 287.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Henry VII.

1489.

An Act for regulating the election of the Mayor and the Eight and Forty.

This statute is hereinbefore printed on page 101.

## 27<sup>th</sup> Henry VIII . c . I .

1535.

An Acte for repairing and amending of the townes of Gloucester, Nothingham, Northampton and other.

This act recited that certain towns, of which Northampton was one, then were and for a long time had been, in great ruin and decay, with many void grounds. Wherefore it pleased the King with the assent of the lords and commons to enact that if the owners of any decayed houses in these towns, did not rebuild and amend the same, within three years next after public proclamation of this act had been made by the mayor, it should be lawful for the chief lord of whom the same houses were held, to take the same absolutely on condition that he rebuilt and amended the same within three years; and if the lord did not rebuild and amend the same within three years, it should be lawful for the mayor and burgesses or the sheriff to take the same absolutely, on condition that they rebuilt and amended the same within three years; and if the mayor and burgesses or sheriff did not rebuild and amend the same within three years, it should be lawful for the first owner to take possession of the same without condition. There is a saving clause granting time for persons under age or in prison.

27<sup>th</sup> Charles II.

13TH OCTOBER, 1675.

An Act for the better and more easie Rebuilding the Town  
of Northampton.

This act recited that the greatest part of the town of Northampton had been burnt down by a sudden and dreadful fire, which had happened in September last past. Wherefore it was enacted that the judges of assize for the county of Northampton, and other the justices of the courts of King's Bench and common pleas, the barons of the exchequer for the time being, the justices of peace for the said county for the time being, the mayor of the town of Northampton for the time being, and Sir John Holman, baronet, Sir Edmund Bray, knight, Thomas Willughby, James Stedman, Robert Heslunge, Thomas Andrews, Thomas Ward, Charles Fleetwood, Daniel Danvers, Salathiel Loxley, and William Kimbold, esquires, or five, or more of them sitting at the Guildhall, or some other place in Northampton, should constitute a court of record, to determine all differences which should arise between landlords and occupiers of houses in the town, touching the rebuilding of the same, rent due or other matters, with power to enlarge or curtail the estates in the said premises. And with power to appoint rules for rebuilding the town. And generally to do all things necessary, under the circumstances. And it was further enacted that justices of the peace of the county who might reside in the town might exercise their office as justices within the town. And that all justices of the peace of the County might at the times of assizes and sessions of the peace for the county, exercise their office as justices within the town. And further that any person who within seven years should build a house of the value of £300, should have liberty to exercise any trade in the town, as a freeman could do.

This was the only act passed during this session of Parliament.

15<sup>th</sup> George II. c. II.

1742.

An Act for granting an Aid to His Majesty by a Land Tax  
to be raised in Great Britain, for the Service of the year One thousand seven hundred and forty two.

By this act the borough of Northampton was directed to raise the sum of £830. 7s. 10d., and a certain number of gentlemen, living in the town, were named as commissioners, to carry out the act.

The remainder of the county was directed to raise £46,882 2s. 3d.

## 18th George III. c. 79.

*One of the Local and Personal Acts declared public.*

1778.

An Act for paving, cleansing, lighting, and watching the town of Northampton; and for removing and preventing Incroachments, Obstructions, and Annoyances therein.

This act appointed a large number of the noblemen and gentlemen of the town and county as commissioners to put the act into operation, and provided for the election of new commissioners; but no person (except the mayor) could act unless he had a yearly income of £40 from lands or tenements, or a personal estate of £800 under a penalty. The commissioners, or seven, or more of them, were directed to meet at the Guildhall on the third Thursday after the passing of the act, and afterwards by adjournment; a chairman was to be appointed, and the proceedings entered in a book. The commissioners were empowered to appoint treasurers, clerks, collectors, and surveyors, and pay their salaries. The tenants or occupiers of houses or other hereditaments were to be rated or assessed at two shillings in the pound. But if the houses or other hereditaments were situate in any street or place not mentioned in the schedule to this act, the tenants or occupiers were only to pay two-thirds of the rate, until the streets or places were paved with flag stones for foot passengers, and with rag stone or pebbles for horse and carriage ways, in the same manner that the streets and places in the said schedule were directed to be paved. One moiety of the rate to be borne by the landlord, the other moiety by the tenant of the hereditaments. If the hereditaments should not be of the annual value of £3, or if the tenants should be excused from the payment of poor rates by reason of poverty, the before-mentioned rate should not be raised. But houses unoccupied were not to be assessed. The mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses were not to be considered owners on account of any ground rent, their lessees being considered owners of the property. Agreements between landlords and tenants as to paving or repairing streets were not to be deemed void by reason of this act. The commissioners were empowered to raise the rate by distress; they might also lower the same if they thought fit. Halls, gaols, chapels, church and chapel yards, and other public buildings situated on the streets directed to be paved were to be rated at one shilling and sixpence a yard, running measure, of the length of the front of such halls, yards, or buildings, except the county hospital and the house belonging to the county gaol, which were to be rated according to the poor rate, and except All Saints' church yard, and St. Giles' church yard, which were to be rated at one shilling a yard running measure, and except the Market Hill and Wood Hill (which had been repaired by the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses), and which were to be rated at one shilling a yard running measure, and the breadth of such measure on the Market Hill was to extend from gutter to gutter, taking the length of the Market Hill up the three divisions of the same. And the South Bridge and West Bridge, which were to be rated at one shilling and sixpence for every yard running measure. The rates on Market Hill

and Wood Hill, and any hall, gaol, or bridge belonging to the corporation were to be paid by the chamberlain of the town; on the county hall by the treasurer of the west division of the county of Northampton; on the county hospital by the treasurer of the hospital; on any almshouses by the masters or wardens; on any gaol by the gaoler; on any church or church yard by the churchwardens, and on any chapel by the ministers and deacons. Any person or body corporate aggrieved might appeal to the commissioners. The commissioners were empowered to erect a gate and toll house on or near the South Bridge, or in Cotton End, in the parish of Hardingstone, and take tolls thereat for all carriages, carts, or animals passing, and such tolls were vested in the commissioners. No inhabitant of the town was to pay toll for any carriage, cart, or animal, except they were travelling for hire or on Sundays; and the tolls were only to be paid once a day. The inhabitants of any parish within eight miles of the town might compound for tolls: and the inhabitants of certain named parishes were to be entirely free if the parish contributed twenty shillings annually. Other exemptions were made, such as carts laden with provisions for the use of the town, horses going to be shod or belonging to officers when on duty, carriages carrying post, mail, or packet, or going to and from the election of any knight of the shire or burgess of the town. Heavy penalties were provided for those who evaded the tolls. The commissioners were empowered to vary the tolls, and to let the same to farm. Carriages or carts were not to drag their wheel, unless it had a sledge under it. The commissioners were empowered to borrow money, assigning the rate as a security, by way of annuity or otherwise, but the interest was not to exceed £9 per cent. The whole of the money borrowed, however, was not to exceed £10,000. The tolls were to continue for the term of 21 years from the 24th June, 1778. The property in all lamps, lamp-posts, watch-houses, pumps, and materials for mending the streets, was to vest in the commissioners, who were empowered to order any street or road in the town to be paved, and the footways in the streets mentioned in the schedule to the act were as soon as possible to be paved with flag stones, and the horse ways with rag stones or pebbles. The streets mentioned in the schedule were to be first paved in the order in which they stand in the schedule. The commissioners were empowered to take any materials out of the lands known as the Northampton Fields. Lamps might be fixed to any buildings, heavy penalties being provided for those who broke or extinguished the same wilfully. The laying or repairing of the conduit pipes was to be done by the commissioners, but at the expense of the corporation. The inhabitants were directed to sweep the footpaths in front of their houses twice a week between the hours of 6 and 10 in the forenoon. The scavenger was to clean the streets once a week. An exemption was made for rubbish occasioned by building operations. Penalties were provided for any person wheeling barrows or driving cattle on the foot ways, or rolling a cask for the space of 40 yards; or killing or cutting up any animal in the public streets; or setting up any cock or fowl to be thrown at in the manner called cock-throwing; or exposing for sale any goods on the foot or carriage ways or making any fires commonly called bonfires; or throwing any squib or rocket. No carriage or cart, with or without horses, was to be left in any road or street in the town longer than was necessary for unloading the same. The commissioners

were empowered to remove all porches, steps, posts, or projecting windows that might obstruct the ways. And to remove projecting signs or emblems affixed to houses, but pent houses or projecting windows in places of the breadth of ten yards or more were to remain. Persons might erect pales, posts, and chains, or other fences, provided they did not obstruct the road way. The act was not to affect certain tolls, then payable to the Earl of Pomfret, at Cotton End. Any penalties under this act might be recovered by a distress warrant under the hand and seal of any justice of the peace, and in case the distress was not paid the offender might be committed to the common gaol or house of correction in Northampton for any time not exceeding three months. Any person aggrieved by any thing done in pursuance of this act might appeal to the general quarter sessions of the peace holden in and for the county of Northampton. All acts touching the paving or repairing of highways or streets in the town were repealed.

The schedule to which this act refers.

- I. Bridge Street, with the South Quarter.
- II. Sheep Street, with North End.
- III. Abington Street.
- IV. Gold Street.
- V. The Drapery.
- VI. Mercer's Row.
- VII. The Market Hill.
- VIII. Saint Giles's Square, with the George Row.
- IX. The Wood Hill.
- X. Saint Giles's Street.

This Act was repealed by 5th & 6th William IV., c. 76.

## 18th George III. c. 77.

A Private Act.

1778.

An ACT for Dividing and Inclosing the Open and Common Fields, Common Pastures, Common Meadows, and other Commonable Lands and Grounds, within the Parishes of *Saint Gyles*, *Saint Sepulchre*, *Saint Lawrence*, and *Saint Andrew*, in or near the Town of *Northampton*, in the County of *Northampton*, some or One of them, and which are commonly called or known by the Name of *Northampton Fields*.

The commissioners appointed under this act were William Pywell, of Barnwell Castle, in the county of Northampton, gentleman; John Sultzer, of Burton Overy, in the county of Leicester, gentleman; and James King, of Daventry, in the said county

of Northampton, gentleman. In conformity with the act the commissioners held their meetings, after having given proper notices thereof. They then caused a survey of the fields to be made, with regard to value, quantity, quality, and situation, And then set out, assigned, and allotted the fields; and set out the roads. These commissioners, at a meeting held at the George Inn, in the town of Northampton, signed and sealed their award, made by the authority of this act, on the 24th June, 1779. And the award was inrolled on the 10th November, 1779, by Charles Morgan, clerk of the peace for the county of Northampton. The original award is also at the County Hall, Northampton, being engrossed on eleven skins of parchment, each of which bears stamps to the value of 7s. 6d.

### 37<sup>th</sup> George III. c. 42.

*One of the Local and Personal Acts declared public.*

24TH APRIL, 1797.

An Act for altering and amending an Act, passed in the Eighteenth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, *An Act for paving, cleansing, lighting, and watching, the Town of Northampton, and for removing and preventing Encroachments, Obstructions, and Annoyances therein; and for continuing the Term of certain Tolls by the said Act granted.*

This act extended the period within which tolls might be levied for a further term of twenty-one years; added the names of new commissioners; exempted the inhabitants of certain villages south of the River Nene from payment of tolls; enacted that the building used as the then late County Hospital should be rated; and that the then new foot and carriage way leading out of St. Giles' street towards the new General Infirmary should be a public road. This act is a very short one. It was repealed by 5th and 6th William IV. c. 76.

### 40th George III. c. 73.

*A Private Act.*

1800.

An ACT for the Sale of *The George Inn*, in the Town of Northampton, vested in Trustees for charitable Purposes under the Will of John Driden, Esquire, deceased, and for investing the Money arising from the Sale thereof in the Purchase of Three Pounds per Centum Consolidated Bank Annuities, until a proper Purchase can be found, and in the mean Time for applying the Dividends and Annual Produce thereof for the same charitable Purposes.

The site of the George Inn belonged to John Driden, or Dryden, before 1675, and he erected the inn immediately after the great fire in that year. By his will, dated 2nd January, 1707-8, he gave the inn, with the appurtenances, to be settled as his executors, with the advice of the mayor and aldermen of Northampton, should think most convenient to charitable uses within the town. In 1806 the inn was accordingly sold, in conformity with the above-mentioned act, for the sum of £1500. The purchasers, by articles of agreement dated the 24th July, 1806, constituted themselves a Tontine company, consisting of 54 subscribers. These persons nominated 90 lives at £50 each; this sum amounted to £4500, which defrayed the cost of purchasing, repairing, altering, and furnishing the inn. When the lives were reduced to four, the property was, under the articles, to be divided. In 1873 there were 35 survivors; and in 1887 there were only four survivors, and the inn was therefore sold by auction for the sum of £10,550, and the proceeds divided.

## 54<sup>th</sup> George III. c. 193.

*One of the Local and Personal Acts declared public.*

14TH JULY, 1814.

An Act for better paving, lighting, watching, and improving the Town of Northampton and for taking down, widening, and rebuilding the Bridge over the River Nine or Nen, at the South Entrance of the said Town, and improving the Avenues to the said Bridge.

This act recited that the powers granted by the before-mentioned acts of the 18th and 37th George III. were insufficient; that the bridge over the river Nen in the south quarter, was very ancient, narrow, inconvenient, and dangerous, and that the piers thereof were constructed so as to impede the current of the river in times of flood. The said acts of 18th and 37th George III. were accordingly repealed. A large number of noblemen and gentlemen of the neighbourhood were appointed as commissioners to carry out the act, with power to add to their number; each commissioner to be qualified by being possessed of £40 a year from land or £800 from personal estate, and to be liable to a fine for acting without being qualified. The first meeting was to be held in the Guildhall on the second Monday after the passing of the act, and the subsequent meetings by adjournment, public notice thereof being given in the Northampton Mercury. The commissioners' powers were to be exercised by a majority of those present at any meeting, and the proceedings were to be entered in a book. Treasurers, clerks, collectors, and surveyors, with salaries might be appointed, who should deliver true accounts in writing of all things committed to them touching this act. In case any of the collectors of tolls or other officers died, or became incapable of acting, others were to be appointed in their stead, and their executors were to render account. The commissioners

might order any of the streets to be paved, and obtain stone or other materials out of the Northampton Fields or the parish of Hardingstone, having given notice to the occupiers of lands before they opened or worked pits. The expense of repairing or relaying any conduit pipes was to be paid by the corporation to the commissioners. Lamp irons might be fixed to any house or building, and penalties were provided for any persons damaging or extinguishing the lamps. The lamp-pavements, and all materials were vested in the commissioners. The occupiers of houses were to sweep the footways in front of the same, between the hours of six and ten in the morning once a week. The scavenger was to pass through the town once a week at least to collect the dirt and ashes, giving notice of his approach by bell, and having the words "Scavenger's Cart" painted in large letters on his cart. Penalty provided for not removing rubbish, which was not, however, to apply to rubbish occasioned by building. The commissioners were empowered to take down the south bridge, or any part of the same, and to erect a new good and substantial bridge of iron, stone, brick, or other materials of a width not less than 25 feet nor more than 40 feet, on or near the site of the south bridge and to deepen or make the river wider or narrower near the bridge. And the commissioners were required to make a temporary bridge before stopping the old one. The commissioners were empowered to treat for and purchase certain specified houses and dwellings situate in Bridge street and Cotton end, and two houses which projected in Abington street were also to be purchased. In case the owners of the specified houses would not treat, a jury was to be appointed to settle the amount of the recompense to be paid for the same. After the commissioners had paid the purchase money the houses and buildings were to vest in them, and the tenants were to quit on receiving six months' notice to do so. The act contained a provision that houses or buildings situate in streets not paved with flag-stones were only to pay two-thirds of the rate. The landlords and tenants of the houses were to bear the rate in equal portions. But the rate was not to be charged when the houses were unoccupied. The commissioners were empowered to raise the rate by distress under a justice's warrant, and to lower the rate if they thought proper. Provision was made for the rating of halls, gaols, churches, churchyards, and other buildings, and for payment of the rate. The commissioners were empowered to maintain the toll house in Cotton end, or erect a new one in the same place; and take tolls of all carriages, carts, or animals, with certain exceptions. The tolls were vested in the commissioners, who were empowered to recover the same, and to let the same to farm, and compound for the same. The property in the said bridge, toll house, lamps, and other things was vested in the commissioners. Money might be borrowed by the commissioners by mortgages of rates, or granting of annuities. Penalties were provided for any persons causing any annoyance by riding or driving on the footpaths, damaging the bridge, or any fences or posts, or drawing wood or stone over the bridge except on a wheeled carriage. And any persons taking any wheelbarrow on the footpath or rolling any cask for 40 yards, or killing animals or washing casks in the streets, or exposing goods for sale, making bonfires, firing guns, or throwing crackers or leaving carriages, carts, or animals unattended were also liable to penalties. The commissioners were empowered to remove any porch, projecting window, or sign.

But the commissioners might allow pent houses in streets of the breadth of ten yards to remain; and also palisadoes or posts and chains before houses. Penalties were to be recovered by distress by a justice's warrant. There is a provision for persons aggrieved to appeal to quarter sessions. The right of the Earl of Pomfret to the tolls at Cotton end, and all the rights of the lord of the manor of the town of Northampton were reserved. The tolls were to be continued for 21 years from the second Monday after the passing of the act.

This act was repealed by the special act of 6th and 7th Victoria, c. 78.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> William IV. c. 64.

11TH JULY, 1832.

An Act to settle and describe the Divisions of Counties and the Limits of Cities and Boroughs in England and Wales so far as respects the Election of Members to serve in Parliament.

Northampton is mentioned in Schedule O to this act as "The old Borough of Northampton," but the boundaries were not changed. This act has been partially repealed by divers statutes.

## 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> William IV. c. 76.

9TH SEPTEMBER, 1835.

An Act to provide for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in *England* and *Wales*.

This statute was repealed by 45th and 46th Victoria, c. 50, s. 5. It is hereinbefore mentioned on page 186.

## 7<sup>th</sup> William IV. & 1<sup>st</sup> Victoria c. 78.

17TH JULY, 1837.

An Act to amend an Act for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in *England* and *Wales*.

This act was repealed by 45th and 46th Victoria, c. 50, s. 5.

**7<sup>th</sup> William IV. & 1<sup>st</sup> Victoria c. 81.**

17TH JULY, 1837.

An Act to provide for the levying of Rates in Boroughs and Towns having Municipal Corporations in *England* and *Wales*.

This act was repealed by 45<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> Victoria, c. 50, s. 5.

**6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Victoria c. 78.**

*One of the Local Acts declared public.*

28TH JULY, 1843.

An Act for better paving, lighting, cleansing and improving the Town and Borough of *Northampton*.

This is the principal special act under which the town is governed at the present time. It has been printed and published locally, and as it is readily accessible, it has not been thought necessary to give any abstract of it here.

**24<sup>th</sup> Victoria c. 47.**

*One of the Local Acts.*

7TH JUNE, 1861.

An Act to incorporate the *Northampton Waterworks Company*: to enable them to better supply the Town of *Northampton* and the several Townships and Places adjacent thereto with Water: and for other Purposes.

This local act incorporated the *Northampton Waterworks Company*, which had been originally established by deed dated the 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1837, and directed that the company should supply *Northampton* with water, and if desired, the parishes of *Abington*, *Kingsthorpe*, *Dallington*, *Duston*, *Hardingstone*, *Cotton End*, *Far Cotton*, and *Saint James's End*.

**24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Victoria c. 75.**

6TH AUGUST, 1861.

An Act for amending the Municipal Corporations Act.

This act was repealed by 45<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> Victoria, c. 50, s. 5.

**31<sup>st</sup> & 32<sup>nd</sup> Victoria c. 46.**

13TH JULY, 1868.

An Act to settle and describe the Limits of certain Boroughs and the Divisions of certain Counties in *England* and *Wales*, in so far as respects the Election of Members to serve in Parliament.

Northampton is named in the first schedule to this act as an old borough, and the boundaries are enlarged and defined.

**33<sup>rd</sup> & 34<sup>th</sup> Victoria c. 45.***A Local Act.*

20TH JUNE, 1870.

An Act to empower the corporation of Northampton to establish Markets and Fairs; and for other purposes.

This act gave the corporation of Northampton power to establish new markets for horses, cattle, and various commodities; and abolish, if they thought fit, the existing markets in the Drapery, and Mercers' row, and near the west end of All Saints' churchyard. It contains compulsory powers for purchase of land for five years from the date of the act; to raise money; to bargain with freemen for substituted rights of common; to make certain bye-laws as to (a) carriages plying for hire, (b) hawking provisions, (c) weights and measures.

**34<sup>th</sup> & 35<sup>th</sup> Victoria c. 139.***A Local Act.*

13TH JULY, 1871.

An Act for amending the Northampton Improvement Act, 1843, and for conferring on the Commissioners thereunder additional powers; and for other purposes.

This act amended the act of the 6th and 7th Victoria, c. 78, repealing many of the sections therein contained and substituting others. As it has also been printed locally, no abstract of it is given here.

**45<sup>th</sup> & 46<sup>th</sup> Victoria c. 50.**

18TH AUGUST, 1882.

An Act for consolidating with amendments, enactments relating to Municipal Corporations in England and Wales.

This is the general act, under which all boroughs throughout the country are governed at the present time.

**45<sup>th</sup> & 46<sup>th</sup> Victoria c. 74.***A Local Act.*

3RD JULY, 1882.

An Act to extend the Powers of the Northampton Waterworks Company.

This act extended the limits within which the Waterworks company might supply water to all villages within a radius of about eight miles from Northampton; and in several particulars amended the act of 24th Victoria, c. 47.

**45<sup>th</sup> & 46<sup>th</sup> Victoria c. 212.***A Local Act.*

10TH AUGUST, 1882.

An Act to vest in the Corporation of the Borough of Northampton the race ground or freemen's commons; to extinguish the freemen's rights of pasturage in certain other lands of the Corporation; to empower the Corporation to form public parks, and to make new street improvements; and for other purposes.

This act vested the freemen's commons or race ground containing 91.1. 17. 20p. and Cow meadow, and other meadows in the Corporation, appointed trustees, with power to provide for payment of annuities to freemen; and gave the corporation power to make parks and certain new streets.

**47<sup>th</sup> & 48<sup>th</sup> Victoria c. 208.***A Local Act.*

28TH JULY, 1884.

An Act to provide for a further supply of water to the town of Northampton and adjacent places and for other purposes.

This act was passed to enable the corporation to purchase the waterworks, and to construct the new Ravensthorpe reservoir to take the waters of the Coton brook, Ravensthorpe brook, and Teeton brook; to lay a line of pipes from the reservoir; and to supply the town and suburbs with water.

**51<sup>st</sup> & 52<sup>nd</sup> Victoria c. 41.**

13TH AUGUST, 1888.

An Act to amend the Laws relating to Local Government in England and Wales, and for other purposes connected therewith.

Northampton is named in the third schedule to this act as being an administrative county of itself, and a county borough.

**55<sup>th</sup> & 56<sup>th</sup> Victoria c. 71.***Local Government Board's**Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 4) Act, 1892.*

20TH JUNE, 1892.

An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Halifax, Milford, Northampton, Rochdale, Tenterden, and Wigan.

The order of the Local Government Board of the 13th April, 1892, contained in the schedule to this act, modified certain sections of the 6th and 7th Victoria, c. 78, and 34th and 35th Victoria, c. 139, and authorised the corporation to make bye-laws.

**56<sup>th</sup> & 57<sup>th</sup> Victoria c. 229.**

*Local Government Board's  
Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 13) Act, 1893.*

12TH SEPTEMBER, 1893.

An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Carshalton, Festiniog, Macclesfield, Northampton, Ossett, and Richmond (Surrey), and to the Rural Sanitary District of the Wakefield Union.

The order of the Local Government Board of the 18th May, 1893, contained in the schedule to this act, gave the corporation power to purchase lands in the parishes of Ecton, Cooknoe, and Whiston, for the purpose of using the same to extend the sewage farm situated near Ecton.

List of  
Councils and Parliaments  
held at  
Northampton.



## Henry I.

**1131** A great council was held by the king at Northampton, at which all the principal men of the nation were said to have been present.

At this council, the nobles all swore fealty to Maud, the empress, upon whom the right of succession had been settled by her father, the king.

## Stephen.

**1138** A council was held by the king, at which eight bishops, April 10 twelve abbots, and many of the nobility and others were present.

At this council several promotions in the church were made in order to attach the clergy to the interest of the king.

**1146** The king held a council, at which the Earl of Chester was deprived of all his castles.

## Henry II.

**1157** A great council was held by the king, many of the July 17 bishops, abbots, and principal persons of the kingdom being present.

The cause between Theobald, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Silvester, Abbot of St. Augustine at Canterbury, respecting the latter's profession of obedience to the former, was heard, in the presence of the bishops of Evreux, Bath, Norwich, Chichester, Lincoln, and Hereford.

**1164** A great council was held in the hall of the castle, the Oct. 6 summonses were returnable that day. King Henry arrived late, but Archbishop Becket was punctual.

Oct. 7 Becket made a complaint in the council against William de Courci.

Oct. 8 The king gave sentence against Becket with regard to the affair of John Marescall.

Oct. 9 The king demanded from Becket the repayment of all moneys advanced to the late chancellor in the expedition to Toulouse in 1159.

Oct. 10 Archbishop Becket offered a fine of 2000 marks to the King in discharge of an alleged debt.

Oct. 11 The day was devoted by the king to councils. Becket did Sunday not leave St. Andrew's Priory, where he was lodging.

Oct. 12 Becket was said to be ill.

Oct. 13 Becket performed mass at the altar of St. Stephen.

Oct. 14 Becket left St. Andrew's clandestinely, and went to Eastry, near Sandwich.  
The king, in the absence of Becket, pronounced sentence against him. And he then proceeded to treat of Welsh affairs in council.

*circa* The council of Northampton broke up, and the king left Oct. 20 the town.

1176 The king and Prince Henry held a great council to Jan. 26 consider and confirm the constitutions of Clarendon, and at this council several statutes known as the Assize of Northampton were passed.

William, King of Scots, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and several Scottish bishops, with others, attended this council. A quarrel ensued as to whether the Scottish bishops were to be subject to Canterbury or York, and the matter was referred to the Pope.

The king at this council divided the kingdom into six circuits, and appointed three justiciars to go on each circuit. The county of Northampton was comprised in the second (now the Midland) circuit; and Hugh de Gundeville, William Fitz Radulph, and William Basset were appointed for this circuit. Hugh de Gundeville was sheriff of this county and Hampshire; and William Fitz Radulph of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

At the conclusion of this council the king probably proceeded to Geddington.

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1177      The king held a great council. Robert, Earl of Leicester, and Hugh, Earl of Chester, were restored in blood and honours. William de Albini, son and heir of the late Earl of Arundel, was created Earl of Sussex. The Count of Flanders sent an embassy to this council, touching the marriage of his nieces, the daughters of Matthew, late Comte de Boulogne, and touching a certain agreement, with regard to the crusade, which the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop of Ely had made with him.

### *John.*

1199      A great council was held by the earls and barons for the purpose of taking an oath of fealty to King John.

### *Henry III.*

1224      The king held a council, at which the archbishops, bishops, earls, barons, and great nobles of the land were present.

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1227      A council was held to settle the misunderstanding between the king and his barons, in consequence of the cancelling of the charter of the forests, which had been granted during the king's minority. A scutage was also assessed of three marcs for each knight's fee, by the advice of the earls and barons.

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1265 or     A council was held, at which the king, archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, and all the great men of the nation were present, for the purpose of depriving the rebellious barons of their estates; and at this council, Othoboni, the Pope's legate, excommunicated the bishops and others who had taken part with Montford against the king.

### Edward I.

1282-3 A parliament was summoned and held at Northampton Jan. 20 for the counties south of Trent; and at York for the counties north of Trent.

Four knights were sent from each county, and two men from each city, borough, and market town.

It does not appear that any statutes were passed at this time.

No returns can be found of the members of this parliament.

### Edward II.

1307

Oct 13 Parliament summoned and held at this town.

The late king's funeral, and the coronation and marriage of Edward II., and the whole state of the nation were considered by the assembly.

By this parliament it was ordered that the base money, which in the former reign no one would take, should on pain of life and limb be current throughout the kingdom.

The representatives for the borough of Northampton were Johannes de Lungevill and Robertus de Bedeford.

The king did not leave the town until the 18th October.

### Edward III.

1328

Apr. 24 A parliament was summoned to meet, and was holden during the three weeks of Easter. At this parliament the statute of Northampton, containing seventeen chapters, was passed. It was dated by the king at Northampton, on the 22nd June, 1328.

The representatives for the borough were Johannes le Waidour and Walterus de Burgo.

1336

June 25 A council was summoned to consider the proper measures to be taken against France, and the preparations for war.

1338 A parliament was summoned and held at this  
July 26 town.

This assembly was convened to consider what measures should be taken against France, where preparations were then making for war.

This parliament broke up suddenly because the Scots commenced hostilities, and the king proceeded to Berwick to meet them.

No statutes appear to have been passed at this parliament.

The names of the representatives for the borough are not given.

### Richard II.

1380 A parliament was summoned and held at Northampton.  
Nov. 5 At this parliament the second statute of Northampton, containing two chapters, was passed. The supplies which had been granted for the service of the English Army in Brittany were also made good.

This was the last parliament that was ever summoned to meet within the walls of Northampton.

The names of the representatives for the borough are not recorded.

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The Rev. C. H. Hartshorne in his "Historical Memorials of Northampton" mentions that councils were also held in 1190, 1194, 1223, 1265, and 1268, but without giving details.



Legal Notes  
on the  
*Liber Custumarum Villæ Norhamptoniæ,*  
BY  
THOMAS GREEN, LL.B.

THE following notes, compiled by Mr. Thomas Green, explain those chapters of the *Liber Custumarum* which deal with real estate, namely, houses or land; and by the courtesy of the writer we are enabled to include these notes in this volume, feeling sure that they will be acceptable to all readers of the "Northampton Borough Records," skilled in our early land laws.

The headings of the chapters are those given in the table of contents by the transcriber of the fifteenth century (pp. 208-211). The full text of the chapters will be found at pp. 213-236.

LEGAL NOTES ON THE LIBER CUSTUMARUM  
VILLÆ NORHAMPTONIÆ.

Cap° j° Off londes and tenementes bought aft the vsage and the Customes of Norhampton and holden a yere and a day.

This chapter [set out at pp. 213-214] provides an extremely short period of limitation. Unchallenged possession for a year and a day from a purchase witnessed by the court, gives an absolute title subject to extension in case of disability to a year and a day from its cesser.

The concurrence of this provision with Professor Maitland's theory that the only possession that could become ownership by the lapse of a year and a day was a possession sanctioned by real or fictitious litigation, has been already pointed out by the writer in the "Law Quarterly Review."<sup>350</sup> A question, however, arises whether the limitation prevailed against all the world, or only against those who had the *droits de retrait* mentioned in the next chapter. The word "resonably," i.e., lawfully,<sup>351</sup> and the provision that the purchaser shall answer to no man "for non manere purchase that upon hym may be purchased," suggest on the first blush the narrower inference. The doubt-creating words may, however, be disposed of by treating "resonably" as meaning merely in due form of law, and "purchase" as equivalent to *persecutio*, i.e., action or proceeding in general. The use of "purchase" in this wider sense will be found in chapters xxxi. and lvii. "Purchase," too, even in its modern popular meaning, was closely connected with the proceedings in actions in general. Kings sold their writs as they did their charters. The "nulli vendemus" of Magna Charta was overlaid by elaborate glosses,<sup>352</sup> and the statute of Westminster the second<sup>353</sup> after the date of

<sup>350</sup> L. Q. R. xiii., 116.

<sup>351</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 323.

<sup>352</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 174.

<sup>353</sup> 13 Ed. i., St. 1., A.D. 1285.

Magna Charta, still speaks of the purchase of writs in the same sense in which a plaintiff may be said to purchase them at the present day, when he affixes stamps under the orders as to court fees. Add to these considerations that the period for asserting the *droits de retrait* is shorter than a year and a day, viz., four full courts, a space not covering more than fifteen weeks, and that the enforcement of such *droits* is generally signified throughout the custumal by the special term "asking a cate," and we may with some confidence assume that the year and a day limitation was a general bar, although probably the persons entitled to the *droits de retrait* would get the advantage of that portion of the chapter which deals with the case of disability.

Cap° ij° ffor to aske a Cate of londe and in whiche maner

This chapter [vide p. 214] recognises not only the peculiar custom of *droit de retrait lignager*<sup>354</sup> but also of *droit de retrait féodal*,<sup>355</sup> but the latter is to be exercised only secondarily and conditionally on there being "no man of the lynage," or as it is otherwise expressed "none of the blode." Both of these *droits* go the length not only of embracing inherited but even purchased realty, although the *droit de retrait lignager* is generally confined to the former.<sup>356</sup>

These rights of preëmption must be asserted within four full courts after the previous sale becomes one of constructive public knowledge, either through its original transaction in or subsequent notification to the court.

The process of enforcement is set out with some minuteness. The claimant appears in full court and asks for the cate. The buyer and seller are summoned to the next court. On default they are distrained to come to a second court. If their default continues till a third court the land is seized by the bailiffs into the king's hands, the claimant handing the price to the bailiffs under his seal. At the fourth court unless replevin has taken place, seisin of the land is delivered by the bailiffs to the claimant, saving to the buyer when he comes "his resonable answerys," i.e., accountings, presumably the price he has paid, and any proper outlay made by him before the claimant first asserted his right.

<sup>354</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 325, 632, 670; ii., 246, 328.

<sup>355</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 325, 632; ii., 311.

<sup>356</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 328.

Provision is made for putting buyer and seller on oath as to the true price, but a difficulty suggests itself as to what price the claimant would have to deliver to the bailiffs if the parties persisted in absenting themselves. The passage is somewhat obscure, and it may be that the introduction of the "ii comen-  
ners thow thei ben no mo" covered such an emergency, for there is a somewhat analogous passage in cap. x. as to "the ii gode men if ther be no mo which shullen witnessyn."

The "chefe lorde" who has this sort of *jus emphyteuticarium* is according to the ancient normal construction<sup>357</sup> the next immediate lord as will be seen by chapter lv., contrasting the "chefe lorde" with the "mor eyr (*i.e.*, higher) chefe lorde." The lord's preëmption is, however, barred if he takes "the sales" (in cap. xvi. called "the sellinges") *i.e.*, a fine on alienation.

What is meant by "the kyne" is not so clear. Is it one person or is it many as in Montenegro at the present day? Is it confined to males? How far does the limit of kinship *ad hoc* extend, and what is the order of priority? These questions, unfortunately, are left in some obscurity, for the custumal is as usual but a graft on details assumed to be known. Owing also to the destruction of the bulk of the borough records by the great fire of Northampton in 1675, extrinsic evidence is not at present readily obtainable. Chapters iii., ix., xi., xiii., xiv., afford the only intrinsic light. This much, however, is clear, that the transcriber of the fifteenth century regarded the heir as being the only person entitled, for in his table of contents [*vide* pp. 208 to 211 *ante*] he renders the "sone," "daughter," and "kynne" of the text of cap. iii. as "kin," the "kynne" of the text of cap. ix. as "right eyre," the "sone" and "kynne" of the text of cap. xiii. as "eyre," and the "kynne" of the text of cap. xiv. as "eyre."

Another interesting question arises with reference to the continuance of these *droits de retrait*. How happens it that in the fifteenth century these rights are still spoken of as living institutions? Probably when the customary right of alienation subject to these *droits* arose, the borough stood in advance of the main part of the kingdom, where alienation required the actual concurrence of both heir and lord. But free alienation as against the heir was

<sup>357</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 218.

subsequently reached by the common law by the beginning, and as against the lord by the end of the thirteenth century. The retention, therefore, after this date of the *droits* in the borough converted the quondam privileges into exceptional fettters. Of course any non-statutory change in the general custom of the kingdom would not affect the particular custom of the borough, but what is to be said as to the *droits de retrait* after the right of free alienation in general had been conferred by a statute,<sup>358</sup> since a statute will over-reach everything that is inconsistent with it, custom included? The phenomenon can only be explicable on the principle that the statute, so far as its enabling provision was concerned, was construed as not intended to affect the borough custom. Such a construction would be prompted by various causes, amongst which may be enumerated—

(1.) The probable non-arrival at that early date at the conclusion affirmed almost hesitatingly centuries later by Coke<sup>359</sup> and Scriven,<sup>360</sup> that general statutes affect ancient demesne. Although many mesne lords might exist, yet the maxim was—"Once ancient demesne always ancient demesne," and the borough was, in origin at all events, too closely connected with the kingly control to permit of the extension of the power of alienation by a statute not affecting to bind the king. The case, in fact was similar to that of the *tenants in capite*, whose powers were held not to be increased by the statute.

(2.) The isolating effect of a succession of borough charters, confirmatory of customs at a date when the king's charter would practically rank with the king's statute.<sup>361</sup>

(3.) The constantly recurring confirmations of Magna Charta containing an explicit reiteration of cap. ix. of that statute, as issued 9 Henry iii., which preserved to the city of London its ancient liberties and customs, and to all boroughs their liberties and free customs, and which provision is quoted by Lord Coke as

<sup>358</sup> *Quia Emptores*, Westminster the Third, 18 Ed. i., St. 1, c. 1, A.D. 1290. Entitled in the parliament roll—*Statutum regis de terris vendendis et emendis*.

<sup>359</sup> 4 Inst., 270.

<sup>360</sup> *Scriven on Copyholds*, 692.

<sup>361</sup> The doctrine of *non-obstante* did not receive its death blow till the Bill of Rights, 1 Wm. & M. St. 2, c. 2, A.D. 1689. Moreover the incorporation of boroughs is yet an undoubted prerogative of the crown.

connected with the preservation in the city of London of the custom to alienate in mortmain despite the statutes of mortmain.<sup>362</sup> One of these confirmations of the Great Charter in conjunction with the *Charter of the Forest* occurred only seven years after *Quia Emptores*, and it directs that all justices, sheriffs, mayors, and other ministers shall allow the said charters to be pleaded before them in judgment in all their points.

(4.) The enactment of 42 Ed. iii. c. 1 that if any statute be made against either of these charters it shall be void, which enactment according to Lord Coke, operated as a repeal of any inconsistent statutes down to that date.<sup>363</sup>

**Cap° iij°** That the kyng [kin] or the chefe Lord maken grement with in viij daies of the tenement to hem graunted.

This chapter [p. 215] enables a man to free himself from the *droits de retrait* by an intimation out of Court of his intention to sell. The party receiving notice must then buy within eight days or such longer time as the intending vendor may concede.

The *droit de retrait lignager* is also shown to extend to an alienation, in consideration of a *quasi corody*.

**Cap° iiij°** Off dower of women astir the viages and the lawes of the toun of Norhampton and how thei shall be dowed.

This chapter [pp. 215-216], enabling a husband to endow his wife with money to the exoneration of his realty, appears to accord with the common law position in the time of Glanville, but which apparently had ceased in Littleton's day.<sup>364</sup>

The incapacity of the dowress to commit waste is also in keeping with the common law. Possibly its express mention may be due to the fact that until the statute of Marlborough<sup>365</sup> it was a matter of controversy whether a conventional tenant for life,<sup>366</sup> as distinguished from a life tenant in dower or by the

<sup>362</sup> 2 Inst., 21.

<sup>363</sup> 1 Inst. 81.

<sup>364</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 418, 419. Ranulf de Glanville was chief justiciar of England under Hen. II. Littleton was a judge in the reign of Ed. IV.

<sup>365</sup> 32 Hen. III., A.D. 1267.

<sup>366</sup> That is a tenant for life taking under a disposition of the parties. A tenant in dower or by the courtesy took by mere operation of law.

curtesy was liable for waste unless expressly debarred by the terms of the bargain.<sup>267</sup> The wife who had arranged to receive a sum of money in lieu of her dower, and who held the land by "comaunde" of the heir till he was able to pay, might be regarded as in the position of a conventional tenant for life. At all events it was an abnormal position, and hence the desirability of the express prohibition in our custumal.

It is not clear whether the chapter covers post-nuptial as well as pre-nuptial arrangements, but if so, the necessity of the enrolment of the indenture in "the Comyn rolle of dower" may be deemed effective, either as a fictitious judicial act, or as securing testimony of free concurrence on the part of the wife,<sup>268</sup> and resembling the operation of a fine in the case of land subject to the rules of the common law.

**Cap<sup>o</sup> v<sup>to</sup> Off knowliches of wyfes made of doweryes in the Court and of other Rightes that to hem myght fallen.**

This chapter [p. 216] enables the wife on a sale by her husband of his own realty to quit claim by a curial acknowledgment entered on the "Commoun Rolle" of any right she may have by way of dower or otherwise. Again the process is analogous to a fine at the common law.

**Cap vi<sup>to</sup> If a man take a Wife that hath londe tenement or Rent of erytage or yeven in fre mariage how thei may hit sell**

This chapter [pp. 216-217] appears to enable husband and wife by joint dispositions to sell her inherited realty, or realty given with her in frankmarriage, and apparently expresses in somewhat confused language that the position is to be assimilated (liker) to that of a sale by the husband of his own realty, the object possibly being to give the *droits de retrait*. A second husband is not, however, to stand in the same position as the first for alienative purposes where there are children of the first marriage.

The absence of any curial ceremony on the part of the wife is probably due to the custom having arisen at a period when at the common law a fine was not essential to a conveyance of a

<sup>267</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 9.

<sup>268</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 410, note 4.

wife's lands, but her mere concurrence in the disposition was sufficient.<sup>369</sup>

The enabling custom as to lands given in frankmarriage does not appear to depend for its efficacy on the fulfilment of any condition that issue shall be born, as was the case with fees conditional at the common law, of which frankmarriage is treated as a species in the statute *De donis conditionalibus*.<sup>370</sup>

Why the borough custom retained its pristine vigor free from the prohibition against alienation, which by that statute fell on frankmarriage in common with other conditional fees at the common law<sup>371</sup> may be accounted for by the suggestions made under cap. ii., as to the survival of the *droits de retrait* notwithstanding the passing of *Quia Emptores*, and to these suggestions may be added the further one that since the borough custom permitted of alienation by the spouses independently of the birth of issue, there was no conditionality at all involved, and so the case was altogether outside a statute which, as its name imports, dealt only with conditional gifts. It may further be contended that the statute only operated as a declaration of the ancient law, into which abuses had crept, and consequently that the case was brought within the principle of Lord Coke<sup>372</sup> that if a statute in the negative be declarative of the ancient law, a custom may be prescribed against it as well as it may against the common law itself.

It will be observed that the custom does not extend to ordinary fees conditional at the common law. They being protected by no special custom, would doubtless fall under the restrictions imposed by the statute, seeing that those restrictions could not operate to the prejudice of the crown.

The statement that alienation may take place for poverty or without poverty, suggests a remoter period, when the then existing restraints on alienation were only relaxed under stress of circumstances equivalent to the *Echte Notz* of German law.<sup>373</sup>

The language of the whole chapter is by no means unambiguous. The reference to "giftes joynte" may mean that to allow of

<sup>369</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 408.

<sup>370</sup> Westminster the second, 13 Ed. i., St. 1, A.D. 1285. The statute to which indestructible entails owed their temporary efficacy.

<sup>371</sup> 1 Inst., 179.

<sup>372</sup> Co. Litt., 115a.

<sup>373</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 311, 419.

alienation it was necessary that the gift should have been made expressly to husband and wife, so as to create an interest similar to that which after *De Donis* came to be known as an estate in special tail in the two spouses as distinguished from one in the wife alone. Littleton<sup>374</sup> shows, however, that such a joint estate is the inherent position in a gift in frankmarriage. "In the same manner it is where tenements are given by one man to another with a wife (which is the daughter or cousin to the giver) in frankmarriage, the which gift hath an inheritance by these words (frankmarriage) annexed unto it, although it be not expressly said or rehearsed in the gift (that is to say) that the donees shall have the tenements to them and to their heires between them two begotten. And this is called especial taile because the issue of the second wife may not inherit." Coke<sup>375</sup> also quotes a case in 5 Ed. iii., tending to show that whether the woman or the man be mentioned as the donee in frankmarriage the result is the same, and they both take the estate in special tail. There the gift was by Robert, after the death of his wife Agnes, to Stephen de la More, "Habendum post mortem dictae Agnetis in liberum maritagium cum Johanna filia ejusdem Roberti"; and it was held that both took in special tail, though Joan was not mentioned in the premises and only came in in the *habendum* with a *cum*. Still it is probable that the common law at the date of Littleton had altered its shape from that which it presented in the time when the Northampton custom arose, and that the earlier idea was that a gift to a woman in frankmarriage vested the inheritance in her alone, and not in her and her husband conjointly.<sup>376</sup>

Another ambiguity is produced by the reference to the husband's proper heritage or purchase. This may amount to a substantive statement that the spouses may together dispose of those subjects, but having regard to the provisions of the last chapter, no object seems to be served by such a statement, unless perchance it were intended to declare that if the wife concurred in a feoffment of the husband's lands the necessity for any curial acknowledgment on her part was dispensed with. Moreover the transcriber of the custumal in his head-note [p. 216] treats the present chapter as limited to the wife's lands.

<sup>374</sup> 1 Inst., 21.

<sup>375</sup> 1 Inst., 21.

<sup>376</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 15, 17.

Another ambiguous clause is that which restrains the second husband from alienating the wife's heritage or frankmarriage if she has children by the first husband. This would be a curious provision if it means what it literally says, for the inferential hypothesis that it was in any way within the range of possibility for a husband alone to alienate his wife's realty, suggests traces of some dotal system where a husband could alienate a wife's immovables without her consent<sup>377</sup> or at all events of an early period when the law had not been clearly settled and attempts were not infrequent on the part of husband to alienate the lands of the wife by his own act.<sup>378</sup> If the provision only means that the second husband has not, in conjunction with his wife, the dispositive power of the first husband, if there happen to be children of the first marriage, it merely amounts to the probable position that the early common law prohibition of alienation of estates of inheritance in general, and of frankmarriage in particular<sup>379</sup> had never been relaxed in the borough in the case of a mother who re-married. It is observable that if the provision now under discussion can be read positively as well as negatively, it suggests that if there be no issue of the first marriage the wife and the second husband can together alienate not only her heritage but even her frankmarriage held in the time of her first coverture, i.e., that the absence of children of the first marriage gives the second husband the rights of the first husband as to alienation in conjunction with the wife.

Cap vij° If a man take a Wyfe & hath Jſſue and aftir þe dethe of that wife take anoþer wife and have also Jſſue how her <sup>380</sup> erytage & her purchaſſe ſhalbe porciunde a monge hem alle.

This chapter [p. 217] regulates the heirship to a man as between his children by two marriages, and it contains the first provision which authorises a gratuitous disposition. The children, male or

<sup>377</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law. ii., 398.

<sup>378</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law. ii., 407.

<sup>379</sup> Pollock & Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law. ii., 16, where it is stated that under twelfth century law the estate of the donee in frankmarriage was deemed inalienable.

<sup>380</sup> The text of the chapter shows that the provision relates to the *husband's* and not the wife's property.

female, of the first marriage, are to be preferred to children of a second marriage as heirs to purchased realty, but there is absolute liberty to give or devise it to the children of the second marriage "etc."<sup>281</sup> A similar preference in heirship is given to the first children in respect of inherited realty held by the father in the time of the first marriage, but no authority is conferred to dispose of this in favour of the second children. The provision as to descent is peculiar, e.g., a daughter of the first marriage would exclude a son of the second. It is indeed questionable whether (subject to the preference of the first family) the language does not point to the existence of a custom of *parage* and parage of an unusual kind, viz., equal distribution among all the children, male and female. Such a custom existed at Wareham, Taunton, and Exeter,<sup>282</sup> and there is a passage from the Anglo-Norman laws, known as the *Leges Willielmi*, tending to suggest the general prevalence of such a rule, "*Si home mort sens devise se deperdent les enfans terite entre sei per uwel*"—[If a man dies without devise let his children divide the inheritance equally.<sup>283</sup>] By the end, however, of Hen. iii., the common law as to descent had attained the main features which it now presents, one of them being the exclusion of females by males of equal degree, and the existence of primogeniture among males.<sup>284</sup> The customs referred to in this chapter, as well as those mentioned in chapters xi. and xiii., doubtlessly arose before Hen. ii., in whose reign the common law had arrived at the point that *inter vivos* alienation, gratuitous or otherwise, of the whole realty, whether inherited or purchased, could take place even to a stranger as against the heir, but testamentary disposition, which had long struggled for existence, was forbidden altogether.<sup>285</sup>

**Cap° viij<sup>o</sup>** How the husbonde shall holde the ffre Mariage of his wiffe by the Curtasly of Jnglond.

The provision contained in this chapter [p. 217] resembles that of the common law as to the husband's courtesy in his wife's estate

<sup>281</sup> Vide Chapters xi. and xiii. for expansions of this "etc."

<sup>282</sup> Pollock & Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 259.

<sup>283</sup> Pollock & Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 265.

<sup>284</sup> Pollock & Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 257.

<sup>285</sup> Pollock & Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 247.

in fee simple, in fee conditional at the common law, or frank-marriage.<sup>386</sup> If he had issue by her born alive, capable of inheriting the estate of inheritance in question, he acquired an estate for his whole life in lieu of an interest which terminated with the coverture. The prohibition of gift, sale, or mortgage by a mere tenant by the courtesy points to this provision having originated at a date when no very precise notions had been reached as to the husband's rights over the wife's realty. The curious demand for a cry being heard within the house is explained in Edward the First's day, as the resultant of males being the only credible witnesses in the king's courts, and their natural absence from a birth-chamber.<sup>387</sup>

The forty days or quarantine allowed to the husband, is similar to that allowed to the widow by Magna Charta, in respect of her occupation of the principal house after the death of her husband.

The custumal only mentions courtesy in connection with frank-marriage, and in this respect resembles Glanville's treatment. This may be due to the desire to allay doubt, for the law as to the nature of frankmarriage was at one time anything but clear, and gave rise to much litigation in the interval between Glanville and Bracton.<sup>388</sup> The Scottish law even of to-day gives courtesy only in respect of the wife's inherited lands.<sup>389</sup>

**Cap° ix<sup>o</sup> How a man may londe tenement or Rente laye to wed with owten Chalenge of Right Eyre or of chefe lords.**

This chapter provides a means whereby the *droit de retrait lignager* or the *droit de retrait féodal* may be barred by a proposing vendor or mortgagor offering in the presence of witnesses to sell or mortgage to the person entitled to the right. This provision differs from that in cap. iii. in extending to mortgages as well as sales, and in its operation being dependent on an immediate refusal.

<sup>386</sup> At least this was the case as to frankmarriage in Glanville's day. Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 412, 414.

<sup>387</sup> Pollock and Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 415.

<sup>388</sup> Bracton was a judge under Hen. iii.

<sup>389</sup> Pollock and Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 16, 413, 414, 418.

Cap° x° Iff the wardes of Rentes ovir Rennen of tenement in Northampton and Recovere he shall haue be warde.

This chapter [pp. 218-219] provides remedy where rent is in arrear. The common law in the thirteenth century was extremely reluctant to make non-performance of services a cause of forfeiture of the tenement. The lord's remedies were—(1) Action in the king's court of a real character, whereby the rent was indirectly obtained. (2) Distress. (3) Redeemable seizure of the land if the lord had a court of his own to enable seizure. It was not till two statutes of Ed. i.<sup>300</sup> gave the action *quod cessavit infra biennium* borrowed directly from the canon law and indirectly from the Emphyteutic remedy of the civil law that an ejectment could be obtained in the king's court when default in performance of services had continued for two years.<sup>301</sup> The custom of Northampton seems to have been equally considerate. The tenant prevents his lord distraining for rent by shutting up the house. The court, after ordering an official inspection, awards the lord entry by the bailiffs through the usual accesses, in order that he may distrain the doors and windows, and any non-fixtures. If the distress (in those days not saleable) fails to bring the tenant to book, the court orders another official view, to see if there is anything else which may be distrained, and on the viewers reporting in the negative the court awards the lord possession for a year and a day, and that the doors and windows be hung again. If that time elapses without satisfaction being made, the court accords him permission to let and repair the premises, but in order that the tenant may not be improved out of his inheritance, a cheap class of materials only is to be used. The tenant or his heir may require an account, and may redeem on payment of arrears and expenses. If the lord refuses to accept the tender, the court will order him to do so, and failing compliance will re-award possession. Although the chapter starts with the supposition that the tenant has prevented distress by shutting up the house, yet, doubtlessly, that portion of the remedy which is given on insufficiency of distress would be available in any case, whether the house had been closed or not. The distraining the doors and windows transcends the power of a landlord of the

<sup>300</sup> Stat. Glouc., c. 4. Stat. Westm., ii., c. 21.

<sup>301</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 333.

present day. It was probably intended to make the tenant as uncomfortable as possible, and so drive him to make his peace. The doors and windows are contemplated as capable of being easily re-hung, but the limit of the distraining power is drawn at things "faste in the erthe."

**Cap° xj°** How aman may selle his londe tenement or Rent purchased alle though his Eyre him wolde w'feyn.

This chapter [p. 219] provides that if a man has realty of heritage as well as of purchase, he may give or sell the latter to anybody he pleases, regardless of his heir. This cuts into the heir's rights in two ways. It deprives him of his *droit de retrait* on sale, and also of his right to object to gratuitous dispositions, when made outside certain narrow limits. The existence of an heir, even though incapable of objecting, would, too, deprive the lord of his *droit de retrait*, for that is dependent on there being none of the blood.

**Cap° xijj°** How aman may gefe to his oon daughter a parte of his herytage or of his purchas withoutte geynsleyng of Eyre or of his chefe lorde.

The custom embodied in this chapter [p. 220] is the only one authorising a disposition of inherited realty otherwise than for pecuniary or quasi-pecuniary consideration. It permits part—probably a reasonable part<sup>292</sup>—of either inherited or purchased realty to be given to daughters in frankmarriage, without any right on the part of lord or heir to object. The peculiarities of this tenure or estate will be found in Pollock & Maitland's History of English Law.<sup>293</sup> The custom is limited to gifts to daughters, but at the common law gifts to cousins, and even to sons in frankmarriage were not unknown.<sup>294</sup> The custom mentions that the lord's service is to be saved, and in this resembled the common law, which did not prejudice the right of the lord to resort to any part of the land for his services, but bound the

<sup>292</sup> The Norman custom was one-third part. Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 15.

<sup>293</sup> Vol. ii., 15, 17.

<sup>294</sup> 1 Inst., 22.

donor and his heirs to acquit the donee, and the donees issue from such forinsec services till the fourth degree of consanguinity had been passed.

We are now in a position to summarise roughly the extent of the alienative power prevailing as to fee simple estates in the borough as disclosed by the custumal.

A man could

I. As to both purchased and inherited realty

(1.) Sell and mortgage to anybody, subject to the *droits de retrait lignager* and *fœdal*.

(2.) Give part to daughters in frankmarriage.

II. As to purchased realty.

(1.) Give or devise to children of a second marriage.

(2.) Give or sell to anybody, free from any *droit de retrait*,  
provided the alienor has inherited lands

It has already been pointed out how the conservation of whilom privileges might cause a borough to lag behind the main part of the kingdom when the common law attained to a higher freedom than the privileges had ever conferred. The custumal shows this disadvantageous result hampering Northampton in the fifteenth century, although the common law had nearly two centuries before shaken off all restraints in favour of lord and heir imposed on *inter vivos* alienation of ordinary fee simple estates. The attainment by the borough of a level with the rest of the realm would at the latest be produced by the operation of statute 32 Hen. viii., c. 1, explained by 34 and 35 Hen. viii., c. 5, which conferred on fee simple tenants in socage or in the nature of socage<sup>395</sup> the fullest alienative power, both *inter vivos* and by will. The terms of these statutes show a clear intention to bind the crown, and Lord Coke treats them as extending to boroughs subject to customary law.<sup>396</sup>

Cap° xiiiij° That no deceyte be where thorough the Eyre or the chefe lorde be for barred of her Right that toucheth ffree tenement.

Cap. ix shows that the kin and the lord have the preferential right to make the advance where a man desires to mortgage (leyen

<sup>395</sup> The Northampton tenure was burgage, and Littleton speaking of burgage says, "Et tel tenure nest forsque tenure en socage" [And such tenure is but tenure in socage]. 1 Inst., 109.

<sup>396</sup> 1 Inst., 115.

to wedde). The present chapter [p. 220] affords the opportunity of asserting the right. It also strikes at evasion of the *droits de retrait* by a demise of such a character as practically to amount to a sale or mortgage. It is observable that the custumal contains no such protective provision as against subinfeudation in fee. Obviously, a collusive subinfeudation at a nominal service would be equally subversive of the *droits de retrait*. It is apprehended that the reason of the omission is that though the enabling provision of *Quia Emptores* did not apply to the borough,<sup>397</sup> yet it was otherwise with the restrictive provision of that statute prohibiting subinfeudation, and that subinfeudation thereafter became no longer possible. A similar theory as to the somewhat resembling case of *tenants in capite*, is suggested in Mr. Challis' work on the law of real property.<sup>398</sup> Subinfeudation would not, of course, be saved on the ground of particular custom, for it had been the general custom of the realm.

**Cap° xv°** Off hem that Sofferen her rente too paileñ A yere  
or too or thre in disheritſouñ of her tenaunte.

We get in this chapter [pp. 220-221] an early analogue of recent statutory provisions limiting a landlord's right of distress. In the case provided for by the chapter the tenement is either empty, or occupied by persons other than the demesne freeholder. The lord quietly lets the rent due from the freeholder get into arrear without reminding the latter of the fact. The freeholder may, from absence or otherwise, be under the belief that the rent is being kept down by occupants. At least the lord sleeps on his rights, and he is penalised with the loss of all his rent beyond a year. The case will be otherwise if he has required the freeholder to pay, and the latter has begged time in the presence of witnesses.

**Cap° xvij°** Off Rentes and Relevés to be hadde aftir the viages  
the touñ of Norhamptoñ.

This chapter [p. 221] provides for two things, payment of relief on death, and syne (sellynges) on alienation. Though

<sup>397</sup> Vide ante under cap. ii.

<sup>398</sup> Challis on real property, p. 20.

Bracton doubted whether as to socage tenure, of which burgage is a species, anything could properly be called a relief, although *quædam præstatio* was due.<sup>31</sup> The object of paying one relief if several tenements are held of the same lord is not very apparent, for doubtless the one relief would be the aggregate of the individual reliefs. The provision may have originated at a time when relief (*relevatio*) entailed a ceremony, and till relief the lord was entitled to take and hold possession. The compression of all the ceremonies into one would have a tendency to prevent all undue delays to the tenants' detriment, to say nothing of the multiplication of court fees. The lord is only entitled to take the fine on alienation if he does not assert his right of preëmption.

It is noticeable that relief and fine are treated as payable in respect of rents held by one man of another by a rent service or vested in one man by the grant of another. It is presumed that the position is that denoted in Pollock & Maitland's History of English Law,<sup>32</sup> viz., that a man who is entitled to a rent service from a terretenant grants it to a third person, reserving, however, all the other services of the terretenant. On the death or alienation of the terretenant the grantee of the rent is then naturally the proper person to receive the relief or the fine.

When reliefs and fines on alienation in the borough became obsolete is a matter of conjecture. Nothing in the statutes<sup>33</sup> of 32 Hen. viii., c. 1, and 34 and 35 Hen. viii., c. 5, affects them, nor does the 12 Car. ii., c. 24,<sup>34</sup> except in so far as any fines for alienation might be due to the crown. Their obsolescence is doubtlessly due to natural causes, such as the passing into oblivion of mesne lordships and petty services to which no practical value continued attached.

Cap° xvij° Off noyesaunce of wallez hegges or gotters wel dykekyng or of other lyked thing to neyghbores.

This chapter [p. 221] is noteworthy as presenting an admirably short remedy for matters of trifling value, but involving disproportionate expense if litigated at length in the ordinary course.

<sup>31</sup> Pollock and Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i. 289.

<sup>32</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii. 129.

<sup>33</sup> Quoted under chapter xiii. ante.

<sup>34</sup> The statute whereby, with minor exceptions, all tenures were turned into free and common socage, and various burdens affecting real property abolished.

Cap° xxxj° That no man of the toun of Norhampton ne emplede othir owte of the fraunchise by no man° purchase.

This chapter [p. 226], compelling burgesses to sue one another in the borough court, subject to the right to resort elsewhere if justice be denied, supports the proposition advanced in the comments under cap. i. that "purchase" in that chapter means *persecutio*, i.e., action or proceeding in general, and not merely the *droits de retrait*.

Cap° l° What aman shall paie to the profite of the touñ for londe and tenementz bought in the same touñ.

This chapter [p. 231] shows that the advalorem duty now payable on conveyances of ten shillings in the £100 would only equal three-fifths of the old tax, assuming the ratios of the values of money and land were identical at the two periods.

The right to impose the tax would be included in the concession by Ric. i. to the burgesses of the *firma burgi*, which was a complex of rights—a group of sources of revenue.<sup>103</sup> As the king had at this early date not lost his right to tallage his boroughs he could permit them to tallage themselves.<sup>104</sup>

Cap° liij° What power the chefe lorde hath of tenement that his tenaunt holte of hym in ffee within the sfranchise of Norhampton.

This chapter [pp. 232-233] provides for the following state of affairs. The lord complains to the bailiffs that his tenant in fee is wasting or destroying his tenement to the risk of the rent. The bailiffs thereupon attach anything in the nature of tenemental material found on the premises, or bought or taken therefrom. The former they deliver to the lord to be held as distress for arrears of rent or other services. The latter attachment awaits the decision of the court. The tenant may get his property again on satisfying the arrears, and giving sufficient security for making good the dilapidations. The expression "tymbren it up agayne"

<sup>103</sup> Pollock & Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, i., 635.

<sup>104</sup> Pollock & Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, i., 647.

points to that early period when for the most part houses were constructed of wood. If there has been any unrightful sale the buyer as well as the seller is to be grievously amerced. A charge of theft was, of course, out of the question, for what was taken away was part of the freehold, and the property would rather be in the tenant than the lord. The passage "if any man be seised of londe tenement or rente and he tho thonges to him seised woldē wasten or distryuen," is peculiar so far as a rent is concerned, for though the expression enfeoffed of a rent in the sense of being seised of it is accurate enough,<sup>404</sup> yet it is difficult to see how a rent could be wasted or destroyed by the owner of it to the detriment of a chief lord. The peculiarity of expression may be accounted for by the fact that the wasting of the physical tenement out of which a rent issues operates indirectly as a waste of the rent. If the rent so wasted is one held in mesne by service as mentioned in cap. xvi., and the mesne holder has got into possession of the physical tenement for default of payment the language is explained. The remedy given by the chapter presents some analogy to the process of *pignoris capio* when employed in respect of *damnum infectum* in the Roman law, though the object to be attained was to a certain extent disparate.

Cap° lv° If aman holde atenement in c<sup>o</sup>teyne of another And the tenement be charged to another more souereyn chefe And that ilke mene is holden him to aguyten and Reisleyue the syluer of his tenaunt.

The position denoted in this chapter [p. 233] is that a superior lord distrains on the demesne tenant who has performed his due and fixed service to the mesne lord. The court on complaint awards that demand shall be made of the mesne lord in the presence of witnesses that he should exonerate the complainant. Failing compliance the court will award that the complainant shall hold *nu à nu* of the superior lord till the mesne lord performs his duty. The remedy is analogous to that afforded by the *Breve de Medio*, which was in general use in the thirteenth century.<sup>405</sup>

<sup>404</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 131.

<sup>405</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 217.

In the present chapter, as also in chapters x., xv., and liii., will be found in varying aspects, the fundamental idea of the early law that in respect of a freehold rent the land itself was the debtor, and that there was no power to enforce payment or indemnity in respect of such rent by any remedy in the shape of an action *in personam* based upon a personal obligation. All the processes referred to in these chapters are of a purely real and cumbersome character. In chapter x. the lord may distrain for the rent, and as an ultimate remedy get possession of the land, but though the distress and the possession are mere pledges in both cases, no suggestion of the possibility of any personal remedy is given in case the tenant chooses to remain recalcitrant and leave the pledges on the lord's hands. In chapter xv. too the only remedy contemplated is that of distress. The lord by his negligence is to lose all rent except that accruing within a year of the period when he chooses to distrain. It says nothing about any similar deprivation in a personal action, for no personal action was deemed possible. Again in chapter liii., where there is peril to the rent by the waste or destruction of the tenement, we get as the remedy of the lord attachment of the tenemental property only. And lastly, in the present chapter the only relief the injured terretenant can get is to be placed in immediate relation with the superior lord till the mesne lord exonerates him from the damages sustained by the non-performance of the superior service.

In Pollock & Maitland's History of English Law,<sup>407</sup> will be found a full description of the position. That these matters are not of mere antiquarian interest is shown by the recent case of *re Herbage Rents Greenwich*.<sup>408</sup>

**Cap° lvij°** The ffresh fors of the toun of Northampton Alls well for pore as for Riche.

The process mentioned in this chapter [pp. 234-235] appears to supply a customary equivalent for the assizes of *Novel Disseisin* and *Mort d'Ancestor*. It consists in the immediate seizure by the bailiffs into the king's hands, and a subsequent adjudication

<sup>407</sup> Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, 123-134.

<sup>408</sup> '96 2 Ch 811. See also the article by Mr. T. Cyprian Williams on Landowners' liability to pay Rent charges in fee, xiii., Law Quarterly Review, 288.

of seisin by the court to the claimant who has the best *prima facie* title, the other claimant being left to his remedy by action if he is dissatisfied.

Although no mention is made of *Disseisin* it can scarcely be supposed that this a more flagrant act involving a breach of the peace with amercement, would be left with a less summary remedy than *Abatement* and *Intrusion*, and it is therefore possible that *Intrusion* in the custumal may have been intended to embrace a wider class of cases than is usually technically associated with that term. The fact that hue and cry is raised tends to suggest the idea that an act of some apparent illegality was being committed, nor is it to be forgotten that Northampton was *ancient demesne*,<sup>409</sup> and that *Intrusion* has a special meaning with reference to lands directly connected with the crown.<sup>410</sup> The heading given by the transcriber of the chapter lends some countenance to this view, for he speaks of fresh force, a term peculiarly applicable to *Disseisin* recently perpetrated.

<sup>409</sup> i.e., in the demesne of the crown in the reign of Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror, and in Domesday Book denominated *Terra Regis Edwardi* or *Terra Regis*.

<sup>410</sup> Wharton's Law Dictionary. Title *Intrusion*.

## CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

Page 3. Note 3. *For Brands read Brando.*

„ 25. Line 4 of the Latin. *For null⁹ read nul⁹.*

„ 38. Line 6. *For folio 110b read folio 105a.*

„ 54. The date of Letters Patent. *For 1284 read 1285.*

„ 55. Line 12. *For 29th August read 24th June.*

„ 61. The date of Pleas of the Crown. *For 1330 read 1329.*

„ 61. Line 3 from bottom. *For 1330 read 1329.*

„ 62. Line 3. *For Kingsbroth read Kingsbooth.*

„ 64. The date of Letters Patent. *For 1330 read 1329.*

„ 93. Line 5 from bottom. *For 1478-9 read 1477-8.*

„ 116. The date of Letters Patent. *For 1541 read 1547.*

„ 124. Line 7 from the bottom. *For January 1st read September 8th.*

„ 124. Line 2 from the bottom. *For December 27th read July 25th.*

„ 134. Line 6. *For January 1st read September 8th.*

„ 134. Line 11. *For December 27th read July 25th.*

„ 141. Line 18. *For January 1st read September 8th.*

„ 141. Line 23. *For December 27th read July 25th.*

„ 145. Note 184, line 1. *For Maundaunt read Mordaunt.*

„ 145. Note 184, line 8. *For Earl Maudaunt read The Earl of Peterborough.*

„ 195. Line 6. *For fourpence read tenpence.*

„ 195. Line 8. *For eightpence read elevenpence.*

The original claim was for tenpence toll on waggons, and elevenpence on beast. These sums were reduced during the trial, and when the Lord Chief Justice summed up, the sums were fourpence and eightpence respectively.

„ 202. Note 197. *For 1487 read 1486-7.*

„ 203. Line 9 from bottom. *For faille read faille.*

„ 215. The headings of the third and fourth chapters should be transposed.  
And for "King or Chief Lord" read "Kin or Chief Lord."

„ 222. Note 205. Slapton is an error in the *Liber* for Slipton, a small village near Thrapston. See note on page 62.

226. The heading of Chapter xxxij. should be—Against Impleading out of the Franchise.

„ 226. The heading of Chapter xxxij. should be—As to Entry on the Roll of the Decimer or Doziner.

„ 228. The heading of Chapter xxxix should be—Concerning Covins or Frauds.

„ 230-1. The headings of Chapters xlviij. and liij. should be—Of Vendors of Wode.

„ 232. The heading of Chapter liij. should be—Concerning Remedy for Waste committed to the detriment of the Lord.

Page 261. Note 228. Add date, 1395-6.  
" 274. Note 243. *For 1442-3 read 1422-3.*  
" 356. The heading of the chapter. *For Shoemakers read Shearers or Cloth-workers.*  
" 356 Note 302. The Priory of the Carmelites stood at the angle of Wood street and Abington street, opposite to St. George's Hall.  
" 430. Note 348. George Coldwell was town clerk from 1592 to 1618  
" 430. Note 349. Tobias Coldwell was town clerk from 1618 to 1654  
The dates of office of the various mayors mentioned in this volume, were taken from the shields hanging in the Town Hall. Many of these, however, are found to be inaccurate; and, accordingly, the following corrections have been made from the revised list printed in the second volume:—  
Note 193. John Astley was mayor in 1487-8.  
Notes 144, 237, 257, 262, 263, 264. William Austyn in 1459-60, 1467-8, and 1475-6.  
" 279, 295. John Balgey in 1556-7 and 1565-6.  
Note 289. John Browne in 1549-50.  
" 261. John Butler in 1465-6.  
" 305. Roger Butler 1494-5.  
Notes 322, 325. John Clarke in 1469-70 and 1482-3.  
Note 265. William Flower in 1489-90.  
" 179. John Friend was mayor for the second time during the latter part of 1668, in lieu of 1669.  
Notes 317, 321, 323, 324, 326. Henry Humphry in 1486-7, 1491-2, 1498-9, and 1507-8.  
" 236, 260, 334. Thomas Hunt in 1456-7, 1464-5, 1472-3, and 1480-1.  
Note 346. Richard Johnson in 1544-5.  
" 155. William Lynde in 1483-4.  
" 208. John Longville in 1334-5 and 1335-6.  
" 335. John Motte in 1526-7 and 1537-8.  
" 290. Henry Neale in 1539-40 and 1552-3.  
" 229. John Parvin in 1509-10 and 1524-5.  
" 190. George Peach in 1836-7 and 1837-8.  
Notes 254, 259. William Peryn in 1463-4.  
" 273, 344. John Saxby in 1508-9, 1519-20, and 1531-2.  
Note 281. John Saye or Sakes in 1504-5.  
" 275. John Smith in 1511-2.  
" 255. John Walker in 1515-6.  
" 296. Lawrence Washington in 1545-6.  
" 277. Richard Whelar in 1518-9.  
" 297. Richard Wilkinson in 1546-7.  
Page 453. *Add.* At a Council held at Northampton in 1211 or 1212, the Pope's Legate, Cardinal Pandulph, excommunicated King John.

## GLOSSARY.

**Abatement**, 234, where a person dies possessed of an inheritance, and before the heir or the deviser can enter, a stranger who has no right comes in and takes possession of the freehold, he is said to take by abatement.

**Abull**, 345, able or strong.

**Accon reali**, 335, an action reali, was one brought to recover freehold possession of lands, houses, or other hereditaments.

**Accon personal**, 335, an action personal was one brought to recover a debt or a personal duty or damages in lieu thereof, or for some injury to the person or property.

**Accoitomed**, 308, accustomed.

**Acouaunde**, 304, a concord, or agreement.

**Acquittance of murder**, 27, the amercement or fine leviable on a district for that offence.

**Acyces, assizes**, 424, assizes, or the right to set or fix the quantity and price of articles sold.

**Addycyon**, 305, addition.

**Admitte me**, 399, betake myself, in order to seek sanctuary again.

**Adoo**, 425, to do, or meddle with.

**Adrad**, 422, frightened, or put in fear.

**Afered**, 375, instructed, from the Anglo-Norman; or perhaps measured or ascertained.

**Afflode**, 398, a flood or rising tide.

**Affynyte**, 373, relationship by marriage.

**Ageynst**, 393, against.

**Ageyns**, 233, *see Pursue*.

**Aguyten**, 211, acquit.

**Aid**, 8, an aid, under the feudal law, was a subsidy granted by the tenant to the king or to his chief lord for ransoming his person, for knighting his eldest son, or for marrying his eldest daughter. From the French aide.

**Aiell**, 420, grandfather. From the Anglo-Norman.

**Ainged**, 420, adjudged.

**All halous**, 305, All Hallows' or All Saints' day, 1st November.

**All Seyntis**, 378, all the saints.

**Alls well**, 211, as well.

**All Holowen Chirche**, 225, All Saints' Church, standing in the centre of the town, and much referred to in the municipal records of the borough.

**Allonly**, 260, exclusively.

**Alonly**, 395, only.

**Alyned**, 209, withdrawn or escaped. From the French Allonger.

**Allman**, 421, all manner.

**Allman<sup>2</sup>wise**, 201, all manner of ways.

**Als**, 418, likewise, or *as*.

**Alweile**, 427, always.

**Amerceament**, 27, a pecuniary fine inflicted at the discretion or *mercy* of a court. From the French merci. *Pl. Amercyamentis*.

**Americied**, 223, fined.

**Amendyn**, 219, repairing.

**Anctecteuly**, 423, authoritatively, or perhaps additionally.

**Andaȝ**, 419, Anjou.

**An husteng**, 420, one hustings.

**Annoynace**, 394, annoyance.

**Anon right**, 418, immediately, or at once.

**Anon**, 391, then.

**A nothe**, 337, another.

**Anotable**, 356, a great.

**Anoyable thyngis**, 335, things causing annoyance or damage.

**Anempt**, 204, concerning.

**Answeren**, 417, answer, or be responsible for.

**Apertly**, 427, without concealment, or openly.

**Apperith**, 339, appeareth.

**Appteyng**, 338, appertaining.

**Approprietees**, 308, places appropriated.

**Apetycion**, 265, a petition.

**Appendaut**, 267, hanging attached by a cord or strip of parchment.

**Apceyned**, 232, apprised thereof.

**A quyte a geyns**, 233 acquit against.

**Arected**, 313, arrested, 203, imputed.

Areyned, 418, arraigned or indicted.  
 Aryle, 377, rise.  
 Armure, 418, armour.  
 Arrurages, 219, 233, arrears.  
 Allayd, 232, after it has been tested.  
 Allayour, 232, assayer or tester.  
 Abyd, 330, probably asked.  
 Aseall, 306, a seal.  
 Assarts, 21, parts of the forest where trees or underwood had been destroyed.  
 Assize of demesne, 16, this was probably an assize of ancient demesne, where the king's dues were enforced.  
 Assices, 424. Assie, 211, Assis, 344. *see* Aycyes.  
 Afoynes, 392, essoins, or excuses for delaying a suit. Here used for "but one excuse."  
 Astelwode, 74, astyl, a thin board or lath, or piece of wooden log-cleft for burning.  
 Astate, 210, interest.  
 Atteynt, 402, atteynte, 272, guilty, tried and convicted.  
 Atturney, 234, attorney or agent.  
 Auncell, 375 a method of weighing, by which the fixed weight was at one end of the beam and the hook or pan at the other; the beam was balanced across the hand of the vendor, and by changing the place of his hand he was enabled to weigh diverse amounts. This auncell weight, being capable of great deceit, was forbidden by the statutes 25 Ed. III., stat. 5 c. 9, and 34 Ed. III. c. 5.  
 Auditoures, 272, auditors.  
 Audepeyie, 376, avoirdupois.  
 Averreyn, 218, affirm, or prove.  
 Avise, 269, advice.  
 Aventours, 210, comers, that is substitutes.  
 Availe, avayle, 308, awayle, ayayle, 377, profit, or advantage.  
 Awner, 303, owner.  
 Axith noȝt, 214, asketh not.  
 Ayenst, 354, against.  
 Aylesham, linen of, 60, Aylsham, a market town in Norfolk, which was, during the reigns of Edward II. and III., the chief seat in the country for the manufacture of linens, then called "Aylsham Webs."  
 Ayme of honde, 348, guess of hand.  
 Ayres, 393, heirs.  
 Ayenstle, 267, against.

Ayel, 420, *see* Aiell.  
 Bailli in ffloresterie, 419, the bailli of the forest.  
 Bakstalles, 308, stalls standing in back places, and thus not paying rent to the king.  
 Battis, 338, bailiffs.  
 Bandis, 102, banding together for an unlawful purpose.  
 Barellis, 347, barrels.  
 Barris, 425, the bar of the court.  
 Barke, 229, bark, used for dying.  
 Bataile, 420, to make battle or duel, was to challenge the other party to a combat, in order to prove a cause.  
 Baxite's, 209, bakers.  
 Bayly, 377, bailli.  
 Bayted, 346, baited. This ordinance directing that no bull's flesh should be dressed unless the bull had been baited, ensured at once a constant supply of victims for this cruel, though popular, amusement, and also the rendering of the meat less tough.  
 Beche, 219, beech.  
 Bedyng, 377, bidding, or proffering.  
 Behoneable, 206, behovable or profitable: fit or proper.  
 Behoufull, 102, desirable.  
 Belevyed, 356, be levied, or be raised.  
 Beme, 331, a beam over which the cloth was drawn in order to display it.  
 Benys, 377, beans.  
 Bere hem, 272, carry or demean themselves.  
 Be twene, 392, between.  
 Bisforwarde, 231, *see* Here.  
 Billis, 393, bills or pikes carried by the infantry, and later by the watchmen.  
 Blocke, 394, obstructions.  
 Blodefhedis, 393, bloodsheds.  
 Bocher, 210, butcher. *Pl.* Bocheris, 211  
 Bodilye Othe, 305, a corporal oath, by kissing or laying the hand on the testament.  
 Bore pigge, 336, boar.  
 Borde, 337, board or stall.  
 Borle, 293, burl, to remove the knots and uneven parts from wool or cloth.  
 Boschellis, 377, bushels.  
 Botis, 374, boots, or perhaps here meaning leather, injured by bots, which were certain kinds of worms troublesome to horses.

Botell of haye, 343, a bundle of hay.  
 Bouzte, 232, *see* Ouzte.  
 Boyltur of wode, 229, dregs of woad.  
 Brede for gestys, 402, bread for the visitors to the inn.  
 Brede for horses, 402, a coarse kind of bread was formerly much used for feeding horses; and several of our old writers give receipts for making this food.  
**Bruares**, 394, brewers.  
**Brudtol**, 27, 420, pontage, a toll charged for passing over or under a bridge, or duty paid for the reparation of bridges.  
**Brynnynge**, 305, burning.  
**Bulles fleslhe**, 346, the flesh of bulls.  
**Bultell**, 373, bolted or sifted. Bolted bread was made of sifted wheat, mixed with rye.  
**Burges**, 419, burgesses.  
**Burgage**, 78, tenure proper to cities and towns whereby lands or tenements were held of the king or other lord for a certain yearly rent or payment.  
**Burgh**, 420, borough.  
**Burled**, 332, *see* Borle.  
**Buskes**, 418, bushes.  
**Bushes**, 222, probably a district so named lying in or near Northampton.  
**Buttyng**, 287, abutting, or bordering on.  
**Byenge**, 232, neighbourhood.  
**By**, 402 buy.  
**By hynde**, 220, in arrear.

**Calidions**, 230, cow's heels or sheep's trotters.

**Calle**, 201, Calais. Merchants of the staple of Calais formed an important corporation in the fourteenth century.

**Calueren**, 230, calves.

**Capite**, in, 21, a holding in chief, or immediately from the king.

**Carucate**, 6, a very variable quantity of land, being anything from 120 to 180 acres, but the general size was probably 160 acres.

**Cantell**, 375, *see* Cautell.

**Carione**, 229, carion.

**Catell**, 225, chattel. *Pl.* Catellis, 233

**Cate**, 208, purchase, this was the term used in connection with demanding pre-emption enforceable by heir and lord. From the old French achate.

**Catour**, 335, caterer, or one who provides eatables.

**Cautell**, 377, an over measure.

**Cavmbrigge**, 374, Cambridge.

**Cavfe**, 425, cause.

**Chaffiar**, 391, Chaffer, 378, Chafer, 347, merchandise, or articles offered for sale or exchange.

**Chaffren**, 391, sell or exchange.

**Chapman**, 230, a merchant.

**Chapmen**, petty, 147, small merchants or pedlars.

**Charge giffyng**, 397, giving of the charge.

**Chekker**, 420, the court of exchequer of the king, in London.

**Chequer**, 425, the name of a portion of the Northampton court.

**Cendal**, 73, a kind of rich, thin silken stuff, which was highly esteemed.

**Chepyng**, 210, market. *Pl.* Chepynges, 416.

**Cheslyng**, making, 305, making choice of.

**Chiders**, 393, scolds.

**Chief of cendal**, 73, ten ells of cendal.

**Childwite**, 28, this was the penalty exacted for begetting a child on a lord's bondwoman.

**Chircheserdis**, 419, churchyards.

**Cicestř**, 421, Chichester.

**Clennes**, 230, the wholesomeness.

**Clepid**, 231, called or named.

**Collstringium**, 318, collstringium, a synonym for pillory. *See* Pylory.

**Colour**, 203, pretence or reason.

**Colytion**, 311, collusion.

**Combell**, 375, cumble, a full heaped measure.

**Comenaunt**, 228, covenant.

**Comburgeis**, 265, fellow burgesses.

**Cóialte**, 287, Coméns, 102, Cómoun, 223, Cómun, 422, Cominū, 391, Comynalte, 287, commonalty.

**Comytte**, 103, commit.

**Comoned**, 303, commented on.

**Compronission**, 305, Compremylyon, 329, consent.

**Compleyno**, 302, complainant.

**Comyng**, 299, common.

**Cómysns**, 287, the commons of the parliament.

**Connyng**, 393, knowledge.

**Coneynes**, 210, frauds.

**Conuenable**, 227, fitting.

Contectes, 268, contentions or contests.  
 Conuyete, 272, convicted.  
 Conventicles, 353, conventicles or assemblies.  
 Contrbutarye, 353, contributory.  
 Conceyvyd, 343, apprehended.  
 Concelyng, 416, concealing.  
 Consent, 425, consent.  
 Conably, 266, conveniently.  
 Coueyne, 228, fraud or deceit.  
 Consyleple, 231 counseleth.  
 Conyng, 366, skilful or clever.  
 Cookys, 312, cooks.  
 Cordulean leather, 42. Cordevan leather was prepared at Cordova, in Spain. The word is frequently used by the old dramatists.  
 Cordyner, 374, shoemaker.  
 Cornette, 374, conical papers for holding spices.  
 Cornysers craft, 245, cordwainer's or shoemaker's craft.  
 Coryed, 374, is curried, or perhaps is carried.  
 Corrody, 6, an allowance for procuring meat, drink, and clothing, or in lieu thereof the materials themselves.  
 Corye, 348, curry.  
 Coryed, 348, curried  
 Coriour, 349, currier.  
 Col'tages, 215, charges or outlay.  
 Col'uacon, 338, conservation.  
 Cot'ry, 228, contrary.  
 Councable, 228, Couenable, 420, suitable or agreeable.  
 Couper, 375, cooper.  
 Couerlet, 60, a small cover, being the name of a worsted cloth.  
 Crafty man, 349, craftsman, or skilled workman or tradesman.  
 Creaunfour, 234, Creaunfor, 233, creditor.  
 Crie, 234. *see* Hu  
 Croune, 392, crown.  
 Crouner, 392, coroner. *Pl.* crouners, 339  
 Cukkyng stole, 345, aucking or ducking stool was a wooden engine, wherein the offender was secured, and then lowered into a river or pond  
     There is no aucking stool now in existence in this county.  
 Cuntry, 419, the inhabitants of the country, who were raised to follow the hue and cry.  
 Cuppe choppet, 373, a cup or mazer that is cut down in order that it does not hold less.  
 Curtally of Ingland, 208, 217, *uris* courtesy of England, a man who married a woman possessed of a moiety of inheritance by whom he has left a living child capable of inheriting the land shall keep the land for his son after the death of his wife.  
 Dagouns, 397, dagons or blankets.  
 Dampne, 424, condemn, or mutilate.  
 Darrer, 376, denter.  
 Defaultz, 356, defaults.  
 Defayled, 420, failed.  
 Defentable, 227, able to defend himself.  
 Deister, 210, dyers.  
 Demeanours, 425, conduct.  
 Demed, 373, judged. From the Aeg Saxon.  
 Demene as of freehold, 287, demesne as of freehold.  
 Demenyng, 102, ruling.  
 Departed, 271, divided or parted.  
 Dempuyte, 339, judgment or condonation.  
 Denzeyn, 336, denizen or one possessing the franchise of the town.  
 Deptyn, 221, by retail or in parcels.  
 Deptyng, 417, between, or the border line.  
 Deris ledder, 348, deer skin.  
 Derthe, derthen, 224, derilon *scire*, make scarce, and therefore dear.  
 Derthyng, 227, making dear.  
 Dell<sup>o</sup>, 373, dozen.  
 Detryment, 427, detriment.  
 Dever, 270, endeavour.  
 Devoires, 207, devoure, 394, diet.  
 Dewe, 376, due or proper.  
 di, 332, half.  
 Diffame, 272, diffauneth, 303, *defame* or slander.  
 Dight, deyne, 311, dress or prepare.  
 Dikes, 418, ditches.  
 Discrevions, 101, dissensions.  
 Discerte, 290, discreet.  
 Dislaunder, 272, dislaundre, 375, dislaundreth, 393, slander.  
 Discordes, 101, dissenses.  
 Dilherintosoun, 219, dismantling.  
 Dilate, 304, desolate.  
 Dilpended, 269, expended.

**D**isposnement, 236, disponament, 391, dispossession.  
**D**isrefonner, 420, justify.  
**D**istrwyn, 232, destroy.  
**D**ome, 373, *see* Holy.  
**D**on, 219, cause.  
**D**ower, 208, 215, the portion which a widow has for her life after her husband's death of the lands or tenements of which he was solely seized, and which any possible child of hers could inherit.  
**D**owen, 215, endow or give dower to.  
**D**raden, 416, dreaded.  
**D**raparty, 397, drapery.  
**D**rap, 349, draper.  
**D**rawen, 421, serve.  
**D**ueed, 299, due.  
**D**uel, 27, *see* Bataile.  
**D**unolm, 423, Darham.  
**D**utayn, 210, duwayne 226, the decenary or tithe.  
**D**uiyner, 226, dozener or decimer, was one who had the oversight of the Friburgh, or Tithing, and was responsible for the maintenance of the king's peace.  
**D**uusayn, 392, *see* Denzeyn.  
**D**yght, 311, dress or prepare.  
**D**ykekyng, 209, ditches.  
**D**ylymised, 427, dismissed.  
**D**yvine f'oice, 393, divine service.  
**D**uzyng, dyzing, 229, dying.  
  
**E**bbe, 398, an ebb or falling tide.  
**E**flecked, 311, affected.  
**E**leccions, 102, elections.  
**E**llys, 358, else.  
**E**lne, 229, ell, equal to  $\frac{1}{4}$  yards.  
**E**mporeth, 377, impoverisheth.  
**E**mbracie, 203, embraceties were attempts to corruptly influence a jury or prevent the course of justice.  
**E**mbafeled, 303, embezzled or stolen.  
**E**nabeled, 303, made capable, or certified.  
**E**nchesoned, 418, chastened or punished.  
**E**ncrecnyng, 203, increase.  
**E**nde, at, 293, termination of the matter in difference.  
**E**ndentures, 216, indentures, are a species of deeds.  
**E**nditen, 416, indict, or charge.  
**E**nquestes, 416, inquests  
**E**nplede, 226, implede, or bring a suit against.  
  
**E**nprented, 306, engraved.  
**E**nsweren, 417, answer, or be liable for.  
**E**nsealed, 373, sealed, or stamped.  
**E**nsemble, 356, assemble.  
**E**nserche, 207, search.  
**E**nviron, 232, the plares round.  
**E**nveled, 373, in calf.  
**E**nquerance, 393, inquiry.  
**E**rnett, 210, money paid to bind the contract.  
**E**rytage, 208, inheritance.  
**E**scheator, 77, the officer who observed and certified the king's escheats, or lands, or other profits coming to the king by way of forfeiture or failure of heirs. *Pl.* Eschetoures, 423.  
**E**ssoiners, 241, persons who excused themselves from attending a summons, or prosecuting a suit, or attending a court.  
**E**schewyng, 304, eschewing.  
**E**slayne, 236, *see* Aloynes.  
**E**glastryng, 265, everlasting.  
**E**uyche, 202, euychone, 396, everyone.  
**E**vell, 374, badly.  
**E**v<sup>o</sup>, 102, ever.  
**E**vvyll rule, 394, evil rule.  
**E**xecucion, 423, execution.  
**E**xpeditating, 53, expediting dogs, was removing the balls of their forefeet, in order to prevent them from running game.  
**E**yf, ey, 233, higher.  
**E**yren, 225, eggs.  
**E**yre, 208, 246, Justices in Eyre, those who in ancient times were commissioned to hear the pleas of the crown in divers places *Pl.* Eyres, 391.  
  
**F**face, 374, tanning, or liquor.  
**F**adir, 391, father.  
**F**aggis, 303, bundles.  
**F**alce, 374, false.  
**F**arm, 8, rent, or returns.  
**F**atte, syde, 352, side of the vat.  
**F**awty, 396, faulty.  
**F**fealoship, 336, fellowship or craft.  
**F**effest, 232, enfeoffed, or possessed.  
**F**elles, 209, skins.  
**F**feloun, 398, felon.  
**F**ermed, 422, farmed, or paid rent for.  
**F**eoffermours, 309, ffermout, 287, farmers, or those who paid rent.

**fiercers.** 375. ironworkers, or blacksmiths.

**fested.** 424. festered.

**Fete.** 345. fair.

**fleyres.** 416. fairs.

**Flaye.** 270. a slay, or instrument belonging to a weaver's loom.

**Fletcher.** 353. flesher or butcher. *Pl. fletchers.*

**flethis.** 424. flesh.

**Flouryng.** 203. nourishing.

**floteys.** 378. possibly this was a term for water.

**frofet.** 375. forfeit.

**Forenne.** 392. foreign person, or one coming from the country or another town. *Pl. Foreynes.* 422.

**Foreyn cheif.** 417. franchise.

**Foreyn holdynges.** 421. out holdings, or lands and tenements not within the town.

**Forseytur.** 422. punishment by fine or forfeiture.

**Fornclofed.** 218. closed.

**Forn don.** 232. misdone.

**For swere.** 389. forswear or abjure.

**Forestallers.** 70. florstallers. 376. those who bought any merchandise as it was coming to a market or fair, with intent to sell the same again at a higher price.

**Foritail.** 346. buy as a forestaller.

**For iworne.** 339. forsworn, or perjured.

**Forty daies.** 217. the time of quarantine.

**Forto seyne.** 215. for to say.

**ffrays.** 397. affray, a skirmish or fighting between two or more. *Pl. ffraies.* 393.

**Franke mariage.** 217. was where a man seized of lands in fee simple gave them with his daughter, &c., to another in marriage, to be held by them and their heirs free of any service till the fourth degree of consanguinity was passed.

**Fraternye of the trynnnyte.** 332. Fraternity of the Trinity. Possibly the chapel of the Trinity at Kingsthorpe.

**Funchefis.** 338. privileges.

**Fraunc.** 350. France.

**Fremes.** 274. strangers.

**Fre oure, prechers,** 330, the Dominicans or Black Friars. *See Vol. II., p. 521.*

**ffresh fors,** 211. fresh force. Where one man dispossessed another of property the dispossessed could by a speedy remedy be restored to possession again, leaving the right to be tried afterwards.

**frefton, freton.** 219. freestone.

**fullericrafte,** 291. the fuller's craft. *See Vol. II., p. 288.*

**Fulliche,** 228. fullyk. 264. fully.

**Fynden,** 215. fyde. 305. find.

**flytene.** 274. fifteen.

**fleyre.** 222. fairs.

**Fyrmall,** 313. firm, or perhaps formal.

**Gaderer.** 337. gatherer, or purchaser.

**Gaderyng.** 231. addition.

**Gayne.** 394. convenient, or fit.

**Garbeled,** 348. examined, or picked over; a garbeller was one appointed to examine spices and find out the impurities in them.

**Gaskoyn,** 377. Gascony.

**Gawged,** 347. gauged.

**Gentille,** 207. gentlemen.

**Gerners,** 211. hoards, or garners.

**Gneryng,** 231. garnering, or hoarding.

**Getys ledier,** 348. goat skin.

**Giftes,** 217. dispositions.

**Gleffis,** 393. knives.

**Gobbet,** 373 morsels, or small piece.

**Gote,** 230. goat.

**Gotter,** 221. gutter.

**Gounaunce,** 332. gounaunce, i.e. government.

**Goyth,** 346. price, rate, or cost.

**Gree,** 417. agreement or settlement.

**Gestys,** 402. guests.

**Grenollycke,** 232. grievously.

**Grete,** 210. 229. grievance.

**Grevene,** 220. grieve.

**Greywerk,** 60. badger skin.

**Gruchyng,** 270. grudging.

**Greyngs,** 394. grains.

**Grutte,** 229. dregs.

**Guynzeyn,** 417. quinzain or fifteen day, being a fortnight.

**Gyldwitz,** 420. *see Childwite.*

**Gynnes,** 378. machines for catching fish.

**Gysarnyes,** 418. gisarmes; these were bills or battle axes.

**Hable,** 207. able or strong.

**Habundaunt,** 202. abundant.

Haburion, 418, habergeon, a coat of mail, or breast plate.

Habylite, 292, sufficiency.

Halfendeth, 428, half-part.

Halpe, 231, helpeth, or assisteth.

Halydome, 225, holy dome, or final judgment. From the Anglo-Saxon Halig dom. Also our blessed Lady, from Halig dame.

Hanaper, 71, the king's private treasury, which was kept by the clerk of the hanaper, whose duty it was to receive moneys due to the king for charters, letters, &c.

Handild, 354, handled, or used.

Happ, 103, happen.

Harbernyh, 210, harboureth.

Harneys, 234, armour.

Harren, 222, are.

Haunted, 203, practised.

Hatte of jren, 418, helmet.

Haunte, 230, use, or frequent.

Havenes, 420, havens.

Haveour, 101, behaviour.

Hedertowarde, 422, hitherto.

Hedde, 345, head. *Pl.* Hedes, 347, hedys, 230.

Hedynesse, 102, head-strong ways or conduct.

Hees, 341, lees, or lose.

Heggis, 221, 418, hedges.

Heir, 351, higher. *See Eyr.*

Hem mown, 420, they may.

Hepe, 377, heap.

Her, used throughout the *Liber* quite indiscriminately for he, she, him, her, his, hers or theirs.

Herberged, 230, let out to occupants or tenants. From the Teutonic Herberge.

Herburgh, 230, herberow, 417, harbour or lodge.

Herberiour, 402, lodging-house keeper. *Pl.* Herborowes, 393, herbiours, 402.

Here bisforwarde, 231, henceforward.

Heresgive, 28, the meaning of this word is not certainly known, but it was probably a compulsory new year's gift to the sovereign.

Herkeners under mennys wyn-dows, 393, eaves droppers.

Hes, 418, ease.

High pace, 308, high place.

Hilliers, 239, thatchers or tilers. A hillier is one who conceals or covers.

Hobles, 102, hobbles or difficulties.

Hole toun, 417, an entire township that was not a city or borough.

Hollyche, 234, wholly.

Hollome, 373, wholesome.

Hole, 269, complete.

Holl, 232, together.

Holy dome, 373, *see* Halydome.

Homeiokyns, 393, breakings of homesoken, or invading the freedom every man has in his own house.

Honde, 348, hond, 421, hand. *Pl.* Hondes, 237.

Honthes, 418, hue and cry.

Honeable, 206, fit. *See* Behoneable, 206.

Horne blowe, 397, horns blown to summon assistance.

Hornes, 348, probably measures made of horn.

Houndez ledder, 348, dog skin.

Horiebred, 334, *see* Brede for horses.

Horse ledder, 348, horse hide.

Hostiller, 402, host, or inn-keeper.

Hostellage, 27, the compelling of any innkeeper, tenant, or other person, without payment, to lodge or entertain another.

Hu and crie, 234, the old common law process of pursuing with horn and voice all felons. Here used only to give public notice of an interference with a freehold.

Hundredes, 416, hundreds.

Husteng, 420, hustings, 27, the local court held before the reeve or mayor of the town.

Hustis, 231, probably usages.

Hutwifes cloth, 147, household stuff, such as house linen.

Huxster, 209, a retail dealer, who generally carried his wares on his back.

Hydirmuke, 225, perhaps meaning behind, or out of the market.

Hydynges, 325, hidden, or covered places.

Hye weyes, 418, high roads.

Hyllarts, 354, *see* Hilliers.

Hyren, 210, hire.

Ilke, 417, each.

Ilke mene, 211, same mesne or mesusage.

Imperiall, 220, imperial.

Indifferently ministred, 203, fairly or impartially administered.

Inconueniencj, 304, inconveniences.

Indeacrece, 270, in decrease.  
 Indifferente, 392, equal, or impartial.  
 Ineny, 427, in any.  
 Infangthef, 47, the liberty granted to the lord of a manor to judge thieves taken within his manor.  
 Inhabitantz, 102, inhabitants.  
 Intromit, 78, intromytle, 425, intrude.  
 Intestate, 47, without having made a will.  
 Inteyn teryng, 294, in teyntering or stretching. *See Teyntor.*  
 Intrition, 234, intrusion, almost the same as "abatement" (which see), but an intrusion is to the prejudice of one who takes in remainder or reversion.  
 Inwarde, 375, secretly.  
 Inwarde, 345, Jnwardis, 335, internal portions.  
 Jo'neyman, 270, one working by the day with another. From the French *Journée*. *Pt* Journeymen.  
 Justifiable, 391, conformable to justice; or, perhaps, giving no cause of offence.  
 J solde, 375, the j or i is simply an augment to the word sold.  
 Jd, 377, one penny.  
 Jmpledede, 341, *see* Enpledede.  
 Jndented, 265, the writing was in duplicate on one piece of paper or parchment cut between the two in an indented line, so that the two could be identified.  
 Jnfangenthef, 421, *see* Infangthef.  
 Jnsfyntly, 314, perpetually.  
 Jnioye, 341, enjoy.  
 Joberty, 354, jeopardy or peril.  
 Justic, 423, justices.  
 Karye, 310, carry.  
 Kate, 213, *see* Cate.  
 Kingsbroth, 62, the king's booth, a booth erected in fair time for the use of the king's representative.  
 Knyfe, 418, knife, or sword.  
 Knyzte, 227, knight.  
 Konnyng, 392, *see* Connynng.  
 Kuttyng, 374, cutting.  
 Kylderkyn, 374, kilderkin.  
 Kyne, 214, kyng, kynne, 215, kin.  
 Kynred, 373, blood relationship.  
 Kynges mareshall, 420, the king's officer. *See* Livery.  
 Kytestallis, 395, perhaps king's stall.  
 Ladde, 422, conducted.  
 Lady lighte, 299, the light of our Lady, or the Virgin Mary.  
 Laffe, 418, less.  
 Lastage, 27, lastage, 42, a duty paid for ware sold by the last, as herrings, pitch, &c.  
 Latten, 224, let.  
 Latyng, 203, letting.  
 Lawing, 53, *see* Expeditating.  
 Lay to wed, 208, 218, put to pledge or mortgage.  
 Ledder, 348, leather.  
 Lede, 227, carry or drive.  
 Leeful, 103, lawful.  
 Lees, 350, leys, 351, lose.  
 Leide, 231, laid.  
 Lenger, 397, longer.  
 Lenton, 308, Lent.  
 Lesen, 228, loose.  
 Lres, 206, letters.  
 Lett, 393, 397, delay.  
 Lette, 291, letton, 220, binder.  
 Lettis, 354, leetis, 393, courts leet.  
 Lefeyn, 422, lose.  
 Lettis for Scottis, 344, *see* Scottis.  
 Leue, 210, loan.  
 Levewe, 395, levy.  
 Lewde, 425, lewd.  
 Leyum, 422, Lezan.  
 Leys, 351, lose.  
 Li, 291, pounds. From the Latin Libra.  
 Libte, 270, liberty.  
 Liefull, 308, lawful.  
 Lightis, 335, lights.  
 Liker, 217, like.  
 Livery of the marshall, 27, by authority of the marshal, an officer of the royal household whose duty it was to provide lodgings for the sovereign and his retinue.  
 Lofe, 394, love.  
 Lomes, 299, looms  
 Lone, 227, advance, or loan.  
 Longis, 335, lungs.  
 Lorñ, 232, lost, From the German "verloren."  
 Loot and Scotte, 220, lott and skot, 353, those holding at Lot and Scot were those who paid certain general contributions.  
 Lordie Dakers, 354, Lord Dacre.

Lovynge, 377, enhancing.  
 Luker, 377, pecuniary gain.  
 Lombard, 231, used here for a banker, or producer of coins. This word was derived from Lombardy, whence the early Italian bankers came.  
 Lymme, 373, limb.  
 Lyttees, 265, litties, 338, liberties.  
 Lyffe, 373, life.  
 Lynyn, 348, linen.  
 Lyste, 358, please.  
 Lyter, 222, a litter or brood of young animals.  
 Lydey, 273, privilege, also livery or uniform. *Pl.* Lyvereys, 265.  
 Lytte, 271, the light.

Malisynth, 354, maligneth.  
 Man<sup>2</sup>, 102, manner.  
 Manslawhters, 416, manslaughters.  
 Manucaptors, 87, those who were sureties, for the appearance of one accused, on his being delivered into their custody, instead of his remaining in prison.  
 Mark, 8, a coin worth thirteen shillings and fourpence.  
 Martir, 305, martyr.  
 M<sup>4</sup>, 423, memorandum.  
 Meane, 310, meayn, 354, way or ~~meane~~  
 Mede, 207, reward.  
 Medefullly, 266, deservedly.  
 Melynn, 219, a species of scapolite, being a cheap kind of stone.  
 Merket, 425, market. *Pl.* Mercatis, 424.  
 Melell hogges, 373, a measel was a leper. The term is here used for diseased or measly hogs.  
 Mesury, 345 measures.  
 Menulyng, 269, diminishing.  
 Mercyment, 266, fine. *See* Ameroement. *Pl.* Mercymentis, 274.  
 Merueled, 303, marvelled. From the Anglo-Norman.  
 Mese, 287, messuage.  
 Ministers, 26, servants.  
 Miskenning, 27, a mistake in the plea, for which a fine had to be paid.  
 Misbehavynge, 425, misbehaviours.  
 Moneyers, 13, the officials of the king who had charge of the mint.  
 Moyte, 428, moiety.  
 Monysfihed, 221, admonished.  
 Morte, 336, dead.

Moun not, 220, nor may.  
 Muckhill<sup>e</sup>, 394, heaps of manure.  
 Murtheryng, 418, murder.  
 Mydis, 287, middle.  
 Myll horse, 222, the horse kept to work a mill.  
 Mylling, 294, milling.  
 Mynysters, 353, servants.  
 Myskennynge, 229, *see* Miskenning.  
 Mys rule, 268, misrule.

Nat, 423, not.  
 Nekkys, 358, necks, or risk.  
 Nete, 230, cattle of the bovine species.  
 Netez ledder, 348, bovine leather.  
 Nightis tyme, 398, night time.  
 Norices, 209, nurses. Perhaps here the word means apprentices.  
 Not paied, 233, nought be paid.  
 Nouȝt, 416, naught, or never.  
 Noyetaunce, 209, annoyance, or nuisance.  
 Novised, 271, rumoured.  
 Nûber, 350, number.  
 Nyght walkers, 393, those wandering about at night with evil designs.

Ob, 226, one half-penny.  
 Obediens, 352, obedauns, 352, obedient.  
 Occupy, 375, use.  
 Octaues, 423, the eighth day after the feast.  
 On questis, 274, on inquests or enquiries.  
 On, 221, oon, 287, one.  
 Onlyche, 229, oonly, 423, only.  
 Ony, 307, any.  
 On seafoned, 373, unseasoned.  
 Oonas, 265, one as.  
 Ost, Oste, 230, host, or landlord.  
 Ootes, 374, oats.  
 Or, 331, before.  
 Ordeigned, 402, ordained.  
 Ordeyne, 311, order.  
 Os, 227, as.  
 Ossellum, 320, pile.  
 Ostry, 374, ostery, 358, hostelry.  
 Othes, 416, oaths.  
 Op<sup>3</sup> 307, oper, 223, other.  
 Other, 227, another.  
 Oth, 214, oath.  
 Otemele, 347, oatmeal.  
 Ou, 331, over.  
 Ou see, 356, oversee or superintend.

Outaken, 224, overtaken, or found out.  
 Ou' werkis, 206, our works.  
 Ouzte bouzte, 232, aught bought.  
 Oute take, 420, owte take, 219,  
     except.  
 Owth, 402, ought.  
 Owre, 376, hour.  
 Owpenle, 335, openly  
 Owte, 343, ought.  
 Owte boron, 232, aught borne.  
 Owte crye, 397, outcry.  
 Owte warde, 375, openly.  
  
 Pchemyn, 229, parchment.  
 Pcialite, 207, partiality.  
 Palfrey, 234, a saddle horse.  
 Panis dominicus, 321, simnel bread  
     of the finest flour, so called from the  
     effigy of our Saviour impressed  
     thereon.  
 Panis franciscus, 321, French bread  
     or rolls.  
 Parell, 397, peril.  
 Paſch, 369, Easter.  
 Patent letters, 421 open letters or  
     writings.  
 Pavment, 335, pavement.  
 Peas, 218, pease, 213, peace.  
 Peltes, 222, peltis, 229, skins.  
 Peny, 274, penny, 228, a penny, or  
     token. *Pl.* Penys, 210, penyes,  
     230.  
 Pepull, 305, people.  
 Pel, 203, pell, 313, peril. *Pl.* Perils,  
     269  
 Pilous, 373, perilous.  
 P̄ie, 351, price.  
 Piſhyng, 373, perishing.  
 Piurēe, piurie, 339, perjury.  
 Piſtice, 308, prejudice.  
 Pmyt, 428, permit.  
 P̄petuall, 424, perpetuity.  
 P̄petually, 423, perpetually.  
 P̄son, 233, person. *Pl.* P̄ones, 102.  
 Personnes reſtant, 203, resident  
     persons.  
 P̄ſuacon, 338, settled opinion.  
 Peſen, 223, peſyn, 377, peas.  
 Payne, 417, penalty.  
 Peſes, 312, pies.  
 Pie Powder, Court of, 134, 146, a  
     court held in the market where those  
     who came with "dusty feet" could  
     obtain immediate justice.  
 Pleas of out holdings, 26, pleas  
     concerning lands or tenements lying  
     outside the borough.  
 Plees, 214, 394, courts.  
 Pleſe, 392, pleas.  
 Plete, 270, implead.  
 Pleyñen, 226, complain  
 Pleyneth, 226, complaineth.  
 Pleyne courte, 215, open court, or  
     perhaps full court.  
 Pleyn plees 216, pleen pleez, m.  
     open or full court.  
 Pleyn, 356, full.  
 Pleynt, 228, complaint.  
 Pleyntyfe, 392, plaintiff.  
 Pockey, 336, distempered.  
 Podell, 418, puddle or pool.  
 Poer, 417, poorer.  
 Politick, 102, civil or good mannered.  
 Ponyſlhe, 265, punish.  
 Portesoken, 27, 420, the liberties of the  
     town outside the walls.  
 Porters, 231, measures, probably the  
     length of the white rod borne by  
     certain officials, called porters.  
 Poryng in, 376, impoverishing.  
 Poyntes, 394, points.  
 P̄cyncete, 429, prefynke, 379, precinct.  
 P̄iſtice, 427, prejudice.  
 P̄mises, 203, offences before written.  
 P̄fernacōn, 202, preservation.  
 P̄ſident, 204, precedent.  
 Preſte, 207, earnest money given to a  
     soldier when he was impressed.  
 P̄ſume, 427, presume.  
 Prevely, 376, secretly.  
 Prime, 209, pryme, 225, p̄me, 226,  
     the hour of six o'clock in the morning,  
     being the second of the seven canon-  
     ical hours.  
 Plours, 421, priors.  
 Prifid, 427, comprised.  
 P̄ue, 211, a townsman, or person of the  
     neighbourhood. *Pl.* p̄uez, 209.  
 Pfiste, 270, pſyte, 225, profit.  
 Pgenitours, 423, pgenytores, 205,  
     progenitors, or ancestors.  
 Ppur, 266, own.  
 Ppur and ſingler, 308, own and  
     singular.  
 Ppre heritage, 217, own inheritance.  
 Proſe, 429, pve, 304, 333, proof.

**Puandyr**, 346, provender.  
**Puosterie**, 421, provostery or provostship.  
**Pven**, 234, proved.  
**Pu**, 393, you.  
**Pullett**, 376, a pullet or young hen.  
**Punicion**, 203, punishment.  
**Punych**, 395, punish.  
**Purrhafe**, 209, process or action.  
**Purchased**, 213, pursued.  
**Purchases**, 213, this probably means the absolute purchase of the various charters by the town.  
**Purpresture**, 23, a building or inclosure made to the prejudice of the king.  
**Purfue his fee ageyns**, 233, hold his fee directly from.  
**Purviance** 225, provision.  
**Putred**, 374, putrid.  
**Putto**, 267, put to, or actually placed on the writing itself.  
**Putto**, 397, put to or placed to sale.  
**Purfute**, 417, jurisdiction.  
**Pvte**, 394, put.  
**Pylory**, 373, an engine made of wood to confine the head, and sometimes the hands, of an offender, and thus expose him to public view. There is no existing pillory in this county, though its use is frequently referred to in old local records.  
**Pypes**, 375, pipes.

**Q<sup>4</sup>**, 375, a farthing.  
**Quatage**, 299, quarterly due; the payment was, however, only made yearly at Easter, so probably quarterage signified a payment irrespective of date. *Pl.* **Quartages**, 266.  
**Queme**, 269, satisfy.  
**Queyntife**, 232 ingenious means.  
**Quelf**, 287 inquiry  
**Quellis**, 274, suits.  
**Quietancē**, 423, quittance.  
**Quyte**, 223, quit, or free, or released.

**Ranced leddur**, 374, musty leather.  
**Raso'**, 375, rasid, 377, razed, measures razed or levelled.  
**Rawe ledder**, badly tanned leather.  
**Ray**, 231, a kind of striped cloth. *Pl.* **Rayes**, 229.  
**Rechate**, 375, re-cook, or warm a second time.

**Recorfe**, 308, recourse.  
**Recvueron**, 214, recover.  
**Recytors**, 416, receivers of the misdoers.  
**Reeve**, 27, the most important officer in the town, who presided at the court of hustings, and collected the king's dues.  
**Regrater**, 228, regratour, 376, one who bought in order to sell again in the same market, fair, or place. *Pl.* **Regrateris**, 210.  
**Reignyng**, 305, reigning, or common.  
**Reife**, 424, raise.  
**Rejoise**, 235, enjoy.  
**Rekkelechipe**, 416, recklessness.  
**Relacion**, 396, relation or rehearsal.  
**Relacon**, 355, complaint.  
**Reles**, 225, release.  
**Renne**, 203, run.  
**Rere**, 228, raise, or take.  
**Rered**, 270, raised.  
**Relacion**, 396, recital.  
**Rennyth**, 339, runneth.  
**Replenythed**, 215, redeemed or reprieved.  
**Repacion**, reparacion, 287, reparation.  
**Refseyted**, 224, received.  
**Refseyneth**, 417, receiveth.  
**Resonableche**, 209, reasonably.  
**Reue**, 420, *see* Reeve.  
**Rewe**, 224, row.  
**Right willy**, 421, righteously.  
**Roberys**, 418, robberies.  
**Roberys Court**, 354, Robin Hood's court, a common term for an unjust court, or one presided over by a robber.  
**Rode**, 270, rood, a cross, or crucifix.  
**Rongen**, 209, rung.  
**Rotyn**, 424, rotten.  
**Royotouse**, 313, riotous.  
**Runnen**, right over, 417, a due in arrear.

**Sadde**, 102, serious.  
**Sadnes**, 101, seriousness.  
**Soc**, 4, right, liberty, privilege, or dominion.  
**Socage**, 78, tenure of lands by any certain and determinate service.  
**Sadill**, 377 saddle.  
**Sad rule**, 203, serious, or discrete rule.  
**Sofferen**, 209, suffer.

Salett, 418, a light helmet.  
 Saye, 232, assay.  
 Sayne, 219, *see With.*  
 Sayz, 421, Salisbury.  
 Schone, 374, shoes  
 Sclauder, 375, slander.  
 Scotale, 28. When any officer of the forest keeps an alehouse within the forest, by colour of his office, and causes men to come to his house, and there spend their money for fear of his displeasure, it is called Scotale. The word is used in the charter of the forest.  
 Scataliers, 329, sklaters, 354, slaters.  
 Scotte, 220, *see Loot.*  
 Scottis, lettis for, 354, this probably alludes to the king's Scottish levies, for during the reign of Henry VIII. the wars in Scotland were proceeding.  
 Seefyng, 235, seisin, or possession.  
 Sealed yn, 347, fastened up.  
 Sealed, 345, sealed or stamped  
 Sellynges, 221, fine or alienation.  
 Sendry, 103, different.  
 S<sup>d</sup>unt, 266, sergeant.  
 S<sup>d</sup>uant, 270, servant *Pl. S<sup>d</sup>untis,* 336, *Puntis,* 334  
 Schere, 350, seacher. *Pl. serchers,* 305.  
 S<sup>d</sup>iaunt, 227, sergeant.  
 S<sup>d</sup>uice, 219, servire.  
 S<sup>d</sup>teyn, 221, certain, or fixed.  
 Seyfone, 215, seizen.  
 Semble, 220, assembly.  
 Sette, 345, put in good condition.  
 Seu'ance, 273, severance, or difference.  
 Sewe, 335, sue.  
 Sewen, 418, follow.  
 Seyn, 220, *see With.*  
 Seyne, 210, say, or tell.  
 Shamellis, 424, shambles.  
 Shepis ledder, 348, sheep skins.  
 Sheryng, 356, shearing, or cutting.  
 Shete, 375, shut.  
 Sherman, 356, a shearer of cloth. See Vol. II., p. 288.  
 Shermancraft, 356, cloth shearer's craft.  
 Sherreues, 419, shreviffle, 423, sheriffs.  
 Shitte, 417, shut.  
 Sholn, 420, shall.  
 Shouis payre, 374, pair of shoes.  
 Sight, 419, view.  
 Sigmanuell, 428, the marks or signatures made by the mayor and his brethren with their own hands.  
 Siker, 217, otherwise; sensible from same root as scindo, scipio, scire, and suggesting separation or diversity. It may mean sure, and be a mere pleonasm, or it may mean that there may be security or safety. *See Sikernes,* p. 233.  
 Silue, 216, silver.  
 Siluer, 215, silver, being the purchase money.  
 Sikernes, 233, security.  
 Sith, 274, then.  
 Sithc, 265, since.  
 Simnel bread, 321, a kind of rich cake generally made in a three-cornered form.  
 Sklaters, 354, slaters.  
 Skot, 353, scut, an assessment to a contribution.  
 Slee, 335, slay.  
 Slownes, 416, sloth.  
 Soche, 393, such.  
 Sodeynly, 417, suddenly.  
 Sodeyndeth, 392, sudden death.  
 Solaunder, 265, discredit.  
 Somoins, 421, summons.  
 Sunday dyners, 393, Sunday diners.  
 Sotelte, 377, sotiltie, 310, subtlety.  
 Sethyng, 346, boiling.  
 Sothe, 210, sothenesse, 229, truthfully, or plainly.  
 Sope, 347, soap.  
 Sowgt, 354, sought.  
 Sp<sup>d</sup>ally, 202, especially.  
 Spial, 204, special.  
 Spielite, 203, particulars.  
 Sp<sup>d</sup>ual, 102, spiritual.  
 Spuell, 287, spiritual.  
 Spurge, 347, clarify.  
 Spere, 418, spear.  
 Stallage, 209, rent paid for stalls.  
 Stavis, 393, staves.  
 Stede, 273, place *Pl. Stedis.* 209.  
 Stente, 231, stand.  
 Stlinge, 426, current money. From the word Easterlings, being the name of those people in the east parts of Germany who were skilled in bring gold and silver.  
 Stiward, 377, steward (of the town).  
 Stywarde, 375, the king's steward of the household, formerly an important officer.

**S**tokefish, 308, salt fish.  
**S**tokkes, 209, wooden posts.  
**S**tokkes, 346, stocks, a wooden engine, used to confine the legs of offenders, for the securing of disorderly persons; and also for punishment under divers statutes.  
     Stocks still exist at the following villages in this county:—Apethorpe, Eydon, Gretton, King's Sutton, Little Houghton, and Wicken.  
**S**tones, 348, probably this means actual stones, and not weights of fourteen pounds.  
**S**traunge, 209, country folk, or folk from other towns.  
**S**tynkkyng, 229, offensive.  
**S**tyll, 398, quietly.  
**S**tynten, 417, be free.  
**S**ubbarbys, 266, suburbs.  
**S**ubv<sup>c</sup>cion, 102, subversion.  
**S**uerete, 298, surely.  
**S**uer warde, 203, sure keeping, or gaol.  
**S**ussemy flesh, 230, susmy, 230, flesh corrupted with blood or matter.  
**S**ufferen in wife, 407, suffer in such manner.  
**S**umpter horses, 6, a horse for carrying furniture or other articles.  
**S**urceise, 202, refrain from.  
**S**urmetyng, 271, surmytting, 303, complaint or charge.  
**S**usimy, 336, *see* Sufemy.  
**S**uspiciose, 398, suspicious.  
**S**uyng, 265, following.  
**S**welewe, 221, sewer, or drain, or chimney.  
**S**wte, 234, suit.  
**S**werd, swirde, 418, sword. *Pl.*  
     Swyrdes, 418, swyrdis, 393.  
**S**yche, 417, such.  
**S**ynes, 378, signs.  
**S**yffe, 393, assize.  
**S**yfed, 345, assized.

**T**achementis, 393, persons or things attached, or in custody.  
**T**ale, 333, reckoning.  
**T**annhillis, 396, tan hills.  
**T**apester, 222, a maker of tapestry, here used for a working man generally.  
**T**awe, 349, to curry, dress, or make supple.  
**T**ellagies, 353, tallages or assessments.  
**T**empall, 102, temporal.  
**T**eñt, 287, tenement. *Pl.* Teñtis.  
**T**erme, 220, term of years, or a lease.  
**T**ime, 233, time.  
**T**estate, 47, testat, 422, having made a will.  
**T**eyntor, 332, a taintor was a fixed stretcher used by fullers for stretching cloth. *Pl.* Teyntoris, 332. *See* Vol. II., p. 218.  
**T**hā, 215, than.  
**T**habbot, 302, the abbot.  
**T**haduis, 207, thadvyse, 102, the advice.  
**T**hassent, 425, the assent.  
**T**henhabitaunt, 306, the inhabitants.  
**T**horow, thorouȝ, 419, through.  
**T**hretyth, 354, threateneth.  
**T**horough, 228, by.  
**T**hrummys, 348, thrums, extremities of the weaver's warp.  
**T**hyrndall, 373, thinned down.  
**T**ill, 398, to.  
**T**obes, 394, tubs.  
**T**oll, 27, tolle, 42, sum paid for passing over roads or bridges, entering certain boroughs, or exposing wares for sale.  
**T**olle dish, 375, a dish used by a miller for taking a certain amount of the corn ground by him as payment.  
**T**ombrell, 373, *see* Cukking stool.  
**T**orchis, 305, torches.  
**T**orchette, 305, little torches.  
**T**onne, 343, ton.  
**T**ounes chepyng, 418, market towns.  
**T**ravell, 231, work.  
**T**refoure, 392, treasure trove.  
**T**reten, 421, treat, or use.  
**T**rewē, 348, *see* Beme.  
**T**reyte, 325, probably fine wheaten flour.  
**T**ronage, 210, the right of weighing goods.  
**T**roned, 226, weighed.  
**T**roner, 226, the officer responsible for weighing goods.  
**T**weyn, 298, tweyne, 421, two.  
**T**ymbra, 329, a certain number of skins, forming a bundle.  
**T**yng, 305, *see* Vnfit tyng.  
**T**yngtuȝ, 229, tincture or colour.  
**T**yplynge howsys, 393, drinking houses.  
**T**ypler, 352, the officer appointed to taste the beer, or perhaps the drinker or customer.

Tytulys of Ryght, 234, documents of title, or title deeds.

Tyste, 343, tight. Probably meaning a ton closely pressed and packed.

Utas, 122, the seventh day after the feast.

Ut sup, 335, as above.

Valenē, 422, Valence.

Vayle, 424, advantage. *Pl.* Vailes, 424.

Verray, 298, verry, 402, very, 423, true.

Veyne, 221, visne or neighbourhood. See Vernals inquest. *See Vol. II., p. 135*

Vicious, 424, bad.

Visuer, 221, Viewer.

Vnderwode, 418, underwood.

Vnderueming, 229, undermining.

Vnfit tyng, 305, unfitting.

Vnidale, 334, vniuersall, 310, universal.

Vntestat, 422, intestate, or without leaving a will.

Voiso, 103, voice, or vote.

Volour, 375, value.

Voyde, 232, quit, or depart from.

Voyden, 222, avoid.

Vpland, tounes of, 419, probably inland or country towns.

Vseed, 423, used.

Vyrkyn, 347, firkin, a vessel holding eight or nine gallons.

Vytell, 335, victual.

Wakenē, 227, keep watch.

Waltes, 374, welts.

Warde, 218, 398, prison or gaol.

Warkeman, 227, workman.

Warke in greate, 355, work in quantity, and not by the day.

Warpe, 397, warp or thread running lengthwise in the loom.

Water, 345, mix.

Wase, 353, was.

Wasten, 232, waste.

Wastes, 21, *see* Assarts.

Weweñ, 531, weave.

Webters, 231, websteris, 211, cloth workers.

Wedde, 218, mortgage, or pledge. *Pl.* weddes, weddis, 420.

Weiffe, 397, weave.

Weivericrafte, 299, weaver's craft.

Wenyth, 226, weeneth, or thinks.

Wepenes, 418, weapons.

Westmīn, 421, Westminster.

Wete, 373, witt, 203, wit, or know.

Wepninge pigē, 341, sucking pig.

Weu, 331, weaver. *Pl.* Weuez, 348.

Weyztis, 375, weights.

Whete, 374, wheat.

White, 12, money paid into the king's exchequer was tested by being melted, and it was then said to be blanched or white. Perhaps here it is only meant, that the payment was in white money or silver, and not in kind, such as grain.

Whittawer, 349, a currier of white leather.

Wife awarte, 203, wise administration or government.

With Sitte, 223, disobey.

Wite, 391, say.

Wite ye, 419, know ye.

With Jnne, 423, within.

W'owtyn, 216, without.

With feyn, 220, gainsay.

Witte howe, 228, knows how.

Wittnesse seid, 233, witnessed.

Worthi, 422, commendable.

Wod, 229, wode, 418, woad, a blue dye.

Wodours, 210, sellers of woad.

Wole, 397, woof, or thread, crossing the warp in the loom.

Woke, 417, wook.

Wollen, 348, woollen.

Worme, 229, perhaps wormwood.

Worfe ende, 354, wrong end.

Writ dormond, 353, a writ dormant, was one that was not to be executed for a certain time.

W'ought, 330, without.

Wyrche, 271, work.

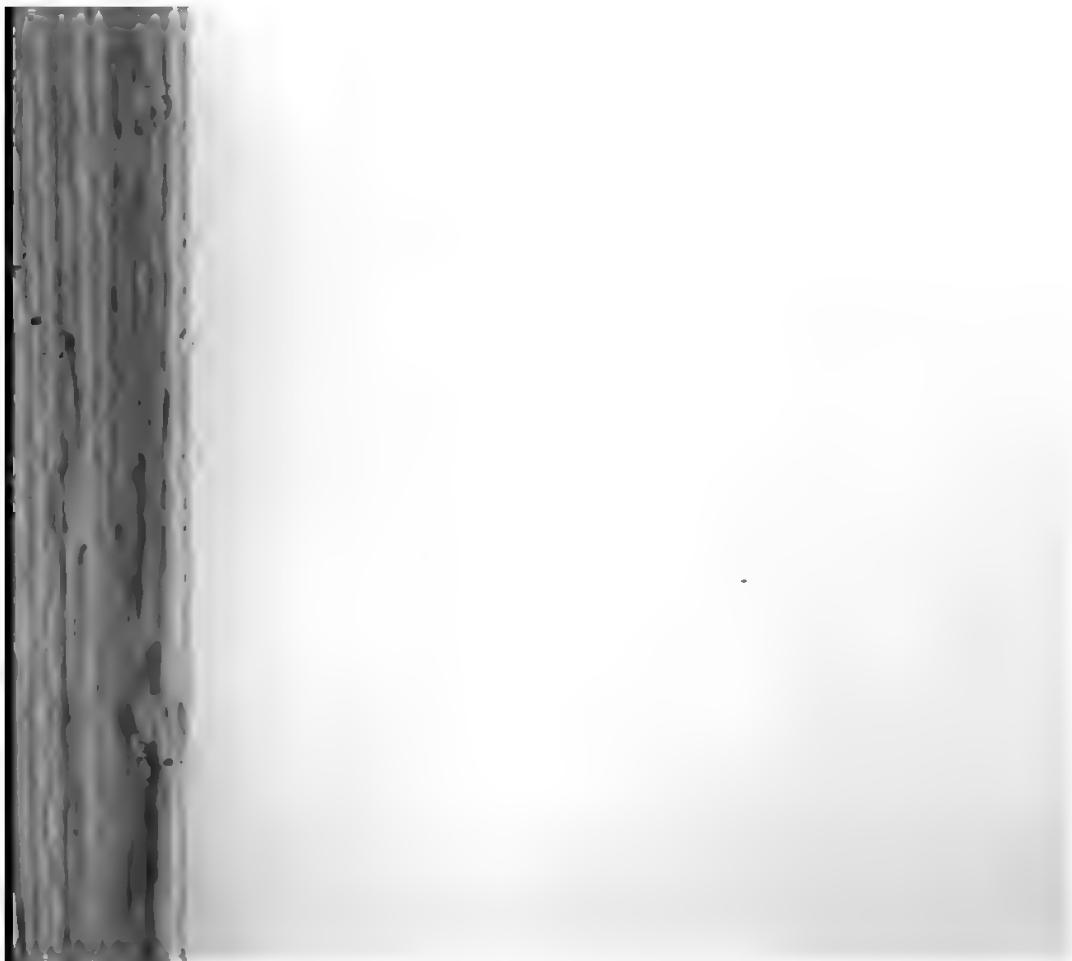
Wylnot, 419, will not.

Wynchesfī, 419, Wynton, 423, Winchester.

Wyntur, 418, winter, meaning a whole year.

Wynnynge, 223, a payment made to the confederates by the winner. The transaction seems to have been a kind of sub-sale or knock-out.

Yeffe, 345, give.	ȝeldon, 233, yielded.
Yere and a day, 208, 213, a year and a day.	ȝere, 419, year.
Yeta ovir, 343, that over.	ȝereljene, 420, <i>see</i> Heresgive
Yeueñ, 202, given.	ȝenen, 215, 230, 30ven, 223, ȝuen, 210, given.
Yevyng, 202, giving.	ȝite, 225, yet.
Yever, 216, giver.	
Yminent, 269, imminent.	þe, 218, the, or that. Anglo Saxon.
Yoȝneman, 274, <i>see</i> Journeyman.	þe beste wyse he cane, 235, the best way he can
Youen, 419, given.	þoo, 217, those. Anglo Saxon.
Ynglond, 354, England.	þough, 224, though.
Yrelande, 350, Ireland.	þt, 421, that.
ȝates, 225, gates.	
ȝefe, 393, give.	



# INDEX TO VOLUME I.

## LIST OF SUBJECTS.

Act of Parliament, 101  
*Acts of Parliament*—  
For Paving and Repairing, 435  
For regulating election of Mayor and Eight and Forty, 101, 435  
For repairing and amending towns of Gloucester, Nottingham, Northampton, and other, 435  
For Rebuilding the Town, 436  
For granting an Aid to His Majesty by a Land Tax, 436  
For paving, cleansing, lighting, and watching the town, 437  
For Dividing and inclosing the Open and Common Fields, Common Pastures, Common Meadows, and other Commonable Lands, 439  
For altering and amending an Act, 440  
For the Sale of the George Inn, 440  
For better paving, lighting, watching, and improving the town, 441  
For better paving, lighting, cleansing, and improving the Town, 444  
For amending the Municipal Corporations Act, 444  
For amending the Northampton Improvement Act (1843), 445  
For consolidating with amendments, 446  
To settle and describe the Divisions of Counties and Limits of Cities and Boroughs in England and Wales, 443  
To provide for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations, 443  
To amend an Act for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations, 443  
To provide for the levying of Rates in Boroughs and Towns, 444  
To incorporate the Northampton Waterworks Company, 444  
To settle and describe the Limits of certain Boroughs, 445  
To empower the corporation of Northampton to establish Markets and Fairs, 445  
To extend the Powers of the Northampton Waterworks Company, 446  
To vest in the Corporation of the Borough of Northampton the race ground or freemen's commons, 446  
To provide for a further supply of water to the town, 447

*Acts of Parliament*—Continued.  
To amend the Laws relating to Local Government in England and Wales, 447  
To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board, 447, 448  
Additions, 479  
Agents, Employment of, 226  
Agreement, 215  
Aid of the Borough of Northampton, 8  
Amerceament, 27, 170  
Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, 1  
Anne, Letters Patent of, 1st, 148  
Arms, Royal, 147, 149  
Arrow Makers, 204, 206  
Assize of Demesne, 16

*Assise of*—  
Ale, 327  
Bakers, 345  
Beer, 68, 69  
Bere Brewer, 347  
Bochers, 345  
Bread, 68, 69, 325  
Brewers, 345  
Cokes, 346  
Cordewenez, 348  
Coriour, 349  
Ffissthers, 346  
Inholders, 346  
Mercer, Draper, Groucer, Smyth, 349  
Millers, 344  
Regrater, 349  
Spicez, 348  
Tallow Chaundeler, 347  
Tanner, 348  
Tauerners, 347  
Weuez, 348  
Whittawer, 349  
Wine, 68, 69

Attorney, 201  
" Power of, 201

Bailiffs, Release to, 202  
" take bail, 243  
Bailiwick, 32  
Baker, Profits of, 321  
Barons of the Exchequer, 78  
Barons' War, 49

Brudtol, 27  
 Burgage, 78  
 Burgesses of Northampton, 3  
 Butchers, 230  
 Buy Food, 225  
     " Hides, 225

Canons of Lincoln, 11  
 Causes and Pleas, Right to Try, 68  
 Chapmen, 230  
 Chapters, Headings of, 208  
 Charles II., Letters Patent of, 15th, 137  
     " 35th, 143  
 Charter of 41st Henry III., 419  
 Childwite, 28  
 Clerk of the Market, 70, 126  
 Cloth Workers, 229, 231  
 Common Council, 32  
 Controversy, 221  
 Corporal Oath, 171  
 Corrections, 479  
 Corrody, 16  
 Councils, List of, 451  
 Court of Record, 126  
 Courtesy, Tenant by, 217  
 Creditors, 233  
 Custody of Town, 64  
     " Paying, 222  
 Customs of London, 27  
     " Northampton, 213

Debts, Arrest for, 44, 45  
 Debtors, 233  
 Deodands, 132  
 Deputy Recorder, Power to Appoint, 147  
 Distress, 46, 222  
 Dogs, Permission Concerning, 53  
 Domesday Book, 1  
 Duel, To Make, 27  
 Dyers, 231

Edward I., Charter of, 27th, 56, 419  
     " Letters Patent of, 15th, 54  
     " 29th, 58  
     " III., Charter of, 11th, 66  
     " IV., Charter of, 2nd, 363  
     " III., Letters Patent of, 3rd, 64  
     " 9th, 65  
     " IV., " 12. 89  
     " " 2nd, 91  
     " " 18th, 93  
     " V., " 1st, 116  
 Elizabeth, " 41st, 119

Enrolments, 364  
 Escheator, 77  
 Exchequer, 38  
 Expeditation, 53

Fairs, Two, 104  
     " Seven, 130

Ffairs, Nine, 177  
 Fair, Liberty to Hold, 66  
 Farm of the Borough of Northampton, 8.  
     Et seq.  
     " Town, 91, 97, 113  
 Felons, Goods of, 126  
     " of Themselves, 132  
 Fines, 104  
 Forestallers, 68, 70  
 Franchise of the Town, 220  
 Free Marriage, 216  
     " Pardon to John Collett, 408

George III., Letters Patent of, 36th, 151  
     " 154  
     " IV., Letters Patent of, 8th, 184  
 Gift of the City of Northampton, 9  
 Grant of Rent Charge, 399  
 Guihalde, 94

Hanaper, 71  
 Henry III., Charter of 11th, 38  
     " " " 39th, 44  
     " " " 41st, 46  
     " " Letters Patent of, 3rd, 34  
     " " " 9th, 35  
     " " " 36th, 41  
     " " " 52nd, 42, 51  
     " " " 54th, 53  
     " " " 2nd, 72  
     " VI., " 9th, 75  
     " " " 17th, 75  
     " " Charter of, 23rd, 77  
     " " " 38th, 84  
     " VII., " 11th, 104  
     " VIII., " Letters Patent of, 11th, 110  
     " " " 2nd, 111  
     " " " 3rd, 408  
     " " " 5th, 113

Heresie, 28  
 Hides, 227  
 Higham, Farm of, 14  
 Hiring Servants, 226  
     " Shops, 227  
 Holy Trinity, Feast of, 67  
 Hostellage, 27  
 Hastings, 27  
 Huswifes' Cloth, 147

Infangthef, 47  
 Inquisition of, Clerk of the Market, 38

James I., Arms of, 136  
     " Letters Patent of, 16th, 125  
 John, Charter of, 1st, 30  
 Judgment, Exemplification of a, 149  
     " of Pillory and Tumbrel, 314  
 Justices, Itinerant, 61  
     " of the Peace, Election of, 104  
 Jurisdiction, Increase of, 125

**Keeping Watch,** 227  
**King's Justiciaries,** 61  
**Knights of the Temple,** 9. Et seq.

**Land Buying,** 231  
 " Devise, 217  
 " Estate in, 232  
 " Granting of, 216  
 " Purchase of, 214  
 " Right to Give, 220  
 " Let, 220  
 " Sell, 219  
 " Selling, 218

**Lastage,** 27  
**Laws of Northampton,** 28  
**Lawing,** 53  
**Legal Notes,** 457  
**Liber Custumarum,** 197  
**Liberties of London,** 28  
 " Northampton, Copy of, 378  
 " the Town, 48

**Loans,** 227  
**London, Custom of,** 31  
 " Mayor of, 29  
 " Sheriffs of, 29

**Manucaptors,** 87  
**Markets, Three,** 120  
**Marshal,** 150  
**Marshall, Livery of the,** 27  
**Matter Demanded at the Parliament,** 362  
**Mayor and Bailiffs, Election of,** 101  
 " First Mention of, 50  
 " Oath of, 57, 171  
**Mayor's Summons,** 223  
**Merchants, Strange,** 46, 47  
**Ministers,** 26  
**Mint of Northampton,** 11, 19, 20, 21, 22,  
 23, 24  
**Money, Blanched or White,** 12  
**Moneyers of Northampton,** 13  
**Monks of Saint Andrew,** 10  
 " Northampton, 8. Et seq.  
**Murage, Concerning,** 73  
 " for Town, 59  
**Murder, Acquittance of,** 27

**Northampton, Arms of,** 137  
 " Battle of, 88  
 " Fair of, 34, 66  
 " Inclosing Town of, 37, 42  
 " Paviage for, 55  
 " Tower of, 19

**Nuisances,** 229

**Oaths of—**  
 A man admitted into the Liberty, 352  
**Bakers,** 304, 373  
**Bochers,** 373  
**Brewers,** 373  
**Buschell,** 373  
**Butchers and Fishers,** 395  
**Cokes,** 375

**Oaths of—Continued.**  
**Constable,** 397  
**Company of Twenty Four,** 393  
**Coroner,** 392  
**Coupers,** 375  
**Drapers,** 374  
**Fferrours,** 375  
**Fforstallers,** 376  
**Ffysshers,** 374  
**Fullers,** 396  
**Inneholders,** 374  
**Man admitted to Liberty,** 393  
**Master of the Tilers' Craft,** 354  
 " Bakers' Craft, 394  
**Meire and Clerke of Market and Charge,**  
 373  
**Millers,** 375  
**Office,** 93  
**Other Weygtis,** 376  
**Recorder,** 392  
**Regrators,** 376  
**Robbers,** 398  
**Searchers of Leather,** 349  
 " Textiles, 397  
**Shoemakers and Cordwainers,** 395  
**Spicers,** 374  
**Taillours,** 375, 394  
**Tanners,** 374  
**Taunchmakers,** 396  
**Taverners,** 375  
**That make market in their houses,** 376  
**Tithing Man,** 393  
**Weytzis of Auncell,** 375

**Ordinance—**  
**Concerning Custody of Land,** 242  
 " Essomers, 241  
**For Breakfasts on Sundays before Cele-  
 bration,** 311  
 " Butchers, 264, 334  
 " Carpenters, 237  
 " Common Chest, 255  
 " River Banks, 258  
 " Craft of Bakers, 309, 333  
 " Cordwainers, 245, 294  
 " Fullers, 290, 302, 332  
 " Tailors, 278  
 " Wexchaundelers, 304  
 " Dogs at Large, 248  
 " Election of Burgesses of Parlia-  
 ment, 248  
 " Fishmongers, 307  
 " Having Common in Fields, 253  
 " Innkeepers, 249  
 " and Bakers, 402  
 " Mayors not being Burgesses, 275  
 " Pigs at Large, 247, 269, 341  
 " Privy Council of the Mayor, 276  
 " Redeeming of Pledges, 250  
 " Serjeants of the Bailiff, 249  
 " Stallages, 262  
 " Strange Traders, 254  
 " Strangers obtaining their Freedom,  
 274  
 " the Bowbell, 252

*Ordinance—Continued.*

- For Tilers' Craft, 329
- “ Waste Spots or Places, 251
- “ Weavers' Craft, 268, 298, 331
- Ordinance, 241
- Orphans, Custody of, 120
- Ousting, 234
- Pardon, General, 89
- Parliaments, List of, 449
- Paving and Repairing Streets, 75
- Philip and Mary, Letters Patent of, 1st and 2nd, 117
- Piepowder, Courts of, 134
- Pipe Rolls, 7
- Plea Miskennning, 27
- Pleas, 69
  - “ of Outholdings, 26
  - “ “ the Crown, 27, 61
  - “ “ Forest, 21
- Pleading, 229
- Pontage for Town, 65
- Portsoken, 27
- Prothonotary, 176
- Purchasing Goods, 228
- Purpresture, 23
- Rebellion, Pardon for, 51
- Recorder of the Town, Election of, 104
- Reeve, 27
- Regraters, 68, 70, 225, 228
- Release of Frears, Edmund, 341
- Relief, 221
- Rent, Distraint for, 218, 220
- Richard I., Charter of, 1st, 25
  - “ II., “ 8th, 68, 423
  - “ III., Letters Patent of, 1st, 97
- Sale of Fish and Salt, 223
  - “ “ Horses, Neat Kine, Swine and Sheep, 223
  - “ “ Wool, Thread, Hides, Tallow, Honey, Cheese, or Flesh, 221
- Schedule of Public, Local, and Private Acts of Parliament Relating to the County Borough of Northampton, 433
- Schools at Northampton, 17
- Scotal, 28
- Selling in One Place, 224
  - “ Unwholesome Meat, 230
- Seneschal, 145
- Servants, 222
- Service, 233
- Socage, 78
- Stall, 223
- Statute of Wynchestre, 345, 416
- St. Leonard's Hospital, Lease of, 402
- Supersedeas, 200
  - “ Writ of, 199, 200
- Toll, 27
  - “ Cause, 195
- Tolls, Unjust, 62
  - “ Leave to Levy, 41
- Town, Concerning the Peace of the, 203
  - “ Register, 235
- Troops, Levying of, 207
- Utas, 122
- Victoria, Letters Patent of, 1st, 191
  - “ 41st, 193
- Vendors of Hay and Straw, 224
  - “ “ Timber, 224
  - “ “ Wood, 230, 231
- Warrants, 104
- Weights, 226
  - “ and Measures, 68, 69
  - “ “ “ Statute of, 321
  - “ “ “ Composition of, 327
- William IV., Letters Patent of, 6th, 187
- Women, Dower of, 215
- Writ to Sheriff of Bedfordshire, 407
- Writs, 104
  - “ of Nisi Prius, 178
  - “ Returns of, 46
- Yelverton, Arms of, 137

## LIST OF PERSONS.

- Abbot, John, 268
- Adam, Adamfyst, 235, 391
  - “ Peris, 213
  - “ Peter, son of, 23
  - “ William, 213
- Adams, John, 385
  - “ Thomas, 194
- Addis, Robert, 144
- Adeliza, 4
- Adkins, William, 192, 194
- Admitt, Frederick George, 194
- Ager, William, 159
- Ailsius, 3
- Albinez, William de, 28, 453
- Albin, William de, 7, 8
- Albres, Earl, 26, 28

Alfonso III. of Spain, 17  
 Alfwin, William, son of, 21, 22  
 Alice, 4  
 Alliston, Richard, 160  
 Alselin, Goisfrid, 2, 5  
 Aluers, Robert de, 2, 5  
 Alward, William, 115  
 Amble, Richard de, 10  
 Amyas, John, 90  
 Andeg, William, 15  
 Andrews, Nathaniel, 144  
     Thomas, 436  
 Anjou, Geoffrey, Count of, 28  
 Ansculf, 2, 5  
 Ansger, 2, 4  
 Antl, R., 15  
 Aragon, Katherine of, 108, 119  
 Ardern, Robert de, 64, 65  
     Wakelin de, 45, 48, 366  
 Argentine, Richard de, 40  
 Armfield, George, 192  
     Thomas, 160  
 Arundel, Earl William de, 26, 28  
     Richard, Earl of, 71  
 Ash, William, 150  
 Asshurne, John, 309  
 Asteley, John, 362, 199  
 Æthelwig, 3  
 Atkins, Hatton, 144  
 Atterbury, Thomas, 144  
 Austen, William, 85, 268, 297, 307, 309,  
     311  
 Avranches, Hugh d', 4  
 Azur, 2, 6  
 Bacheler, 205  
 Bacon, Sir Francis, 129  
 Baker, George, 187  
     Gylbert, 235, 391  
 Balaam, William, 160  
     Charles, 160  
 Balde, Geoffrey, 361  
 Baldeswell, John, 276, 361  
 Baldwin, 2, 3, 6  
 Balgey, John, 334, 350  
 Balle, Simon, 309  
 Band, Nicholas, 427  
 Banks, Thomas, 150  
 Bardolphs, 5  
 Barnar, Cristofer, 427  
 Barrentine, Drogone de, 45  
 Barrett, John, 160  
 Barry, George, 192  
     James, 192, 194  
 Bartholomew, William, 41  
 Barwell, Edward Harrison, 192  
     William Harrison, 192  
 Bassett, William, 452  
 Batcheler, Gilbert, 111  
 Bates, Thomas, 144  
 Bath and Wells, Thomas, Bishop of, 79  
     Henry de, 48, 366  
     Jocelyn, Bishop of, 40  
 Batten, Francis, 144  
 Baxter, Richard, 380, 379  
 Bayeux, Bishop of, 2, 5, 6  
 Bayly, John, 144  
 Beauchamp, Walter de, 57, 367  
     Sir John de, 88, 372  
     Thomas de, 67  
 Beaumont, John, Viscount of, 80, 88  
 Bedeford, Robertus de, 454  
 Bedenyf, Rafe, 213  
 Belaunt, Muchell, 213  
 Belvedeir, Robert de, 4  
 Bemington, Mr., 153  
 Benet, William, sen., 399, 400  
     400  
 Benedict, 4  
 Bernhill, John, 268, 269, 361  
 Bernard, Thomas, son of, 17—20  
 Berridge, James, 192  
 Bertram, John, 361  
 Beryngton, Thomas, 384, 385, 386, 389  
 Birdsall, William, 160  
 Bingley, John, 194  
 Biste, William, 235, 391  
 Blaby, Thomas, 243  
 Blencowe, John, 150  
 Bletsoe, Charles, 150  
 Blounde, Edward, 213  
 Blount, Robert, 213  
 Boci, Robert de, 2, 5  
 Bodington, Thomas, 202  
 Bohun, Humphrey de, 16  
 Boleyn, Anne, 136  
 Bond, Wyllm, 333, 425, 426  
 Boon, James, 160  
 Booth, Fraur, 144  
 Boothe, Lawrence, 88  
     William, 88  
 Boscnorman, 2, 5  
 Boselin, William, son of, 2, 5  
 Bosvyle, Rafe de, 213  
 Botiler, Sir Ralph, 80  
 Bourghchier, Henry Viscount, 88  
 Bouverie, Edward, 185  
     Catherine, 185  
     Hon<sup>ble</sup> Edward, 151  
 Bowdene, Roger de, 339  
 Bowers, John, 427  
 Bowyes, Richard, 425, 426  
 Boyes, 153  
 Bradfield, Simon, 93  
     John, 144  
 Bradford, Thomas, 121  
 Brafeld, Simon, 312, 387  
 Brafield, Thomas, 144, 290, 294, 309,  
     310  
 Brands, Abbot, 3  
 Brantingham, Thomas, 70  
 Bray, Sir Edmund, 436  
 Braybrook, Robert de, 70  
 Brayfield, John, 138, 140, 144  
 Breant, Falk de, 34  
 Breton, Thomas, 159  
 Brian, Antony, 427  
 Brice, Robert, 194  
 Bridges, 12, 43, 143

Briggs, Jeremiah, 159, 169  
 Brightmen, John, 427  
 Brittany, Earl of, 5  
 Brixworth, Hugh, 245  
 Brown, James, 159  
   - John, 340, 341  
   - Robert, 213  
   - Samuel, 160  
   - William, 184  
   - William le, 57, 367  
 Brownsgrave, Arthur, 160  
 Buckley, John, 426  
   - William, 396  
 Buckingham, Edward, Duke of, 109  
   - Richard, 144  
   - Humphrey, Duke of, 79, 88  
   - Thomas, Earl of, 71, 368  
 Buckingham, Henry, 242  
   - John, 242  
 Bugby, John, 425  
   - William, 427, 428  
 Bulky, John, 115  
 Burgh, Abbot of, 1, 3  
   - Walter de, 65  
   - William de, 66, 454  
 Burford, Richard, 362  
 Burt, William, 144  
 Burton, Richard, 411  
 Butler, John, 304  
 Butt, John Thomas, 185  
 Butteler, John, 309  
   - Roger, 358  
 Butterfield, Henry, 194  
 Buxton, George, 187  
  
 Cambridge, John de, 61, 62  
 Campion, Samuel Smith, 194  
 Campo, William de Longo, 29  
 Cantelewe, Nicholas, 361  
 Canterbury, Abbot of, 451  
   - Becket, Archbishop of, 451,  
     452  
   - John, Archbishop of, 67, 79,  
     108  
   - Thomas, Archbishop of, 87,  
     372, 451  
   - William, Archbishop of, 70,  
     368  
 Capel, Henry de, 40  
 Carmelite Brothers, 359  
 Carter, Sir Lawrence, 150  
 Castille and Leon, John, King of, 70  
 Catesby, Thomas, 123  
   - Margaret, 123  
 Catterus, Thomas, 160  
 Cay, Wautee, 235, 391  
 Caysho, Henry, 261  
 Chambers, John, 159  
 Chambre, William, 411  
 Chamberlyn, Johem, 372  
 Champigne, Odo, Earl of, 4  
 Chapman, Timothy, 159  
 Chester, Hugh, Earl of, 453  
  
 Chichester, Ralph Neville, Bishop of, 40  
   - Simon, Bishop of, 33  
 Chipsey, Thomas, 333, 425  
 Chitwood, Thomas, 356, 359  
 Chokes, Robert de, 15  
 Chufford, John, 430  
 Cicobes, Gunfrid de, 2, 5  
   - Sigar de, 2, 6  
 Clare, Earl Richard de, 26, 28  
 Clarke, Henri, 340  
 Clarridge, Thomas, 144  
 Clayhunger, John, 265, 267, 279, 282  
 Cleaver, Richard, 194  
 Clerk, 109  
 Clerke, John, 309, 312, 384, 385, 387, 388  
 Cliff, James, 159  
 Clifford, John, 144  
   - Samuel, 144  
 Coldwell, Tobias, 133  
   - Raphdeleur, 144  
 Coles, James, 139  
   - Robert, 144  
 Colewell, Benjamin, 430  
   - George, 419, 430  
   - Tobie, 430  
 Collet, John, 408  
 Collins, John Bull, 160  
 Collis, Edward, 139  
 Colman, Henry, 384, 388  
 Compton, Lord, 152  
 Compton, Catherine, 165  
 Cornwall, Arthur, Duke of, 108, 109  
 Cook, Charles, 144  
 Cooke, Thomas, 193  
   - William, 144  
 Cooper, Henry, 144  
   - Thomas, 130  
 Cotesbrooke, Adam de, 61, 62, 235, 391  
 Coulson, William, 194  
 Courtenay, Hugh, 70  
   - William, 70  
 Coventry, Alan de, 20, 21  
   - Abbot of, 1, 3  
   - Nicholas of, 24  
 Covington, Frederick, 194  
 Cox, Edward, 159  
 Crafield, Thomas, 334  
 Cromwell, Sir Ralph, 80  
 Cross, Joseph, 160  
 Crown, Thomas, 334  
 Cryspe, Richarde, 334, 353  
 Cuifford, John, 430  
 Curteys, John, 243  
 Cutler, Willm, 354  
  
 Dalabere, Nicholas, 263  
 Dalyngton, Lord of, 267, 268  
 Danes, 3  
 Dangson, James, 118  
 Danvers, Daniel, 436  
 Darby, Thomas, 312  
 Darcy, John, 68  
 Darnes, Christofer, 340

Daventre, Simon, 247, 248, 260,  
 Deignnes, John, 340  
 Denison, Edward, 150  
 Deraunt, Thomas, 265, 278  
 Derby, Robert, 194  
     " Thomas, 312  
     " Earl of, 109  
 Deystere, Peacock, 61, 62  
 Dickinson, Thomas, 159  
 Dilkin, Mr., 153  
 Dilley, John, 144  
 Dudson, 2, 6  
 Dorman, Mark, 192  
 Dorset, John, Marquis of, 79  
 Draper, Norman, 192  
 Druden, John, 440, 441  
 Dryand, Anthonye, 340  
 Duckley, John, 185  
 Dudley, Edmund, 312  
 Duke, Henry, 159  
 Dunekley, John, 144, 185  
 Dunkley, William, 160  
     " John, 160  
     " James, 160  
 Durand, the Reeve, 2, 6  
     " Gilbert, son of, 23  
 Duraunte, Gilberd, 213  
     " Warner, 213  
 Durham, Richard, Bishop of, 57, 67, 108,  
     367  
     " Lawrence, Bishop of, 88, 372  
     " Hugh, Bishop of, 26, 28  
     " Anthony, Bishop of, 57, 567  
 Dynham, Sir John, 109  
 Dyxon, Richard, 333, 426

Earlemonger, 235, 391  
 Ebraff, Richard, 144  
 Edge, Joseph, 159  
 Edmund, 71  
     " Saint, Abbot of, 1, 3  
     " Duke of York, 71, 368  
 Edmunds, 188, 191, 192  
 Edward III., 136, 249  
     " VI., 136  
     " John, 385  
     " the Confessor, 1, 2, 3, 6  
 Egmont, John, Earl of, 165  
 Ekins, Joseph, 160  
 Eleanor, Queen of Spain, 17  
 Elizabeth, Queen, 136  
 Else, William, 144  
 Elwynneffone, William, 213  
 Elyot, William, 111  
 Ely, William, Bishop of, 26, 29  
 Elys, William, 235, 391  
 Emson, Richard, 312, 353, 358, 411  
 Ermysted, William, 116  
 Ernaldis, Richard, 213  
 Ernulf, son of Peter, 7, 8  
 Essex, Earl of, 16  
 Everard, Phelipp, 235, 391  
     " Peter, 45, 48, 366

Everard, William, 235  
 Evesham, Abbot of, 1, 3  
 Exeter, Thomas, Bishop of, 79, 368  
     " Oliver, Bishop of, 109  
     " John, Duke of, 79  
     " Henry, Duke of, 88

Eylsinus, 3

Farr, John, 144  
 Fawsley, Odo de, 17  
 Fereires, Henry de, 2, 4  
 Ferrers, Earls of Derby, 4  
 Ferrour, William, 90  
 fish, George, 160  
 flox, John, 160  
     " William, 160  
 ffraunce, William, 159  
 Fisher, Francis, 121  
 Fitz-Gilbert, Richard, 28  
 Fitz-Piers, Simon, 12  
 Fitz-Roy, Geoffrey, 42, 48  
 Flamstead, Lord of, 4  
 Flanders, Walter of, 5  
 Flandrensis, Walter, 2, 5  
 Fleetwood, Charles, 436  
 Flexney, Henry, 144  
 Floure, William, 313  
 Flours, Richard, 355, 356  
 Folkser, John, 144  
 Foster, William, 150  
 Fox, John, 264  
 Francis, M., 153  
 Frears, Edmund, 342  
 Freeman, Lewis C., 160  
 Friend, John, 139, 144  
 Frind, Edward, 144  
 fyzt, Adam, 391

Garlickmonger, Adam, 391  
 Gayshoo, Henry, 358  
 Geoffrey, 3  
 George, John, 160  
 German, William, 45  
 Geytington, John de, 358  
 Ghent, John of, 70  
 Gibson, William, 159  
     " John, 160  
 Gifard, Osbern, 2, 6  
 Gilberdis, William, 213  
 Gilbert, Robert, 213  
 Giles, Sir, 109  
 Gilo, 2, 5  
 Gitda, 5  
 Gianvill, Ralph de, 24  
 Gloucester, Humphrey, Duke of, 79, 286,  
     288  
 Gobion, Maud, 23  
 Gobiun, Hugh, 16  
 God, Alriche, 213  
 Godric, 4  
 Godwin, 2, 6  
 Godyng, 83  
 Goldwell, George, 124  
 Goldwyer, John, 338

Goodman, Benjamin, 159  
     " Samuel, 159  
 Grakkord, John, 76  
 Grandison, Otto de, 57, 367  
 Green, James, 144  
 Gregory, John, 242  
 Greene, William, 288  
 Grey, William de, 45, 48, 366  
 Groom, John, 192  
 Gubion, Margar, 24  
     " Maud, 23  
     " Richard, 8  
 Gubiu, Hugh, 7, 8  
 Gudgeon, Hill, 159  
 Gundevile, Hugh de, 16, 17, 452  
 Gunfrid, 6  
 Gurney, Joseph, 192, 194  
     " William, 213  
 Gutton, William, 185  
 Gybbes, William, 296

Haddon, Laurence, 248  
 Hagger, Thomas, 192  
 Hall, John, 160  
     " Thomas, 151, 152, 158, 168  
 Hampton, William, 425  
 Hancock, John, 272, 277, 309, 361  
 Harding, Samuel, 150  
 Harle, John, 406  
 Harris, Henry, 145  
     " John, 159, 160  
     " sen., 309  
     " Richard, 144  
 Harrison, Thomas, 144  
 Harry, Ingram, 213  
     " Robte, 213  
 Harrys, John, 300  
 Hartshorne, Rev. C. H., 455  
 Hasleley, Thomas, 288  
 Haslewode, Thomas, 411  
 Havle, John, 361  
 Hayes, Francis, 159  
 Hayrose, William, 299  
 Holford, William de, 17  
 Hellidon, Henry de, 61, 62  
 Hellier, Edward, 144  
 Helys, William, 391  
 Henry I., 7  
     " II., 7, 17  
     " III., 7, 48  
     " IV., 7, 258  
     " V. of Saxony, 13  
     " VI., 276  
     " Prince, 16  
     " Duke of Exeter, 88, 372  
     " Viscount Bourghchier, 88, 372  
 Hensman, Joseph, 139  
     " William, 192, 194  
 Herleston, Geffrey, 235, 391  
 Herleva, 4  
 Herwin, 4  
 Hertewell, William, 411  
 Hesslerige, Robert, 436

Hewlett, Daniel, 187  
 Higham, Thomas, 429  
 Hikedon, Hugh, 245  
 Hill, William, 192, 194  
 Hillyard, Clark, 159  
     " Thomas, 160  
 Hilton, John, 293, 331, 332, 333  
 Hochechte, John, 61  
 Hoigkinson, Thomas, 159  
 Holbech, William de, 26, 29  
 Hollid, Richard, 144  
 Hollis, John, 159  
     " William, 192  
     " G., 194  
 Holm, Richard de, 71  
 Holman, Sir John, 436  
 Holt, Samuel, 151, 153, 159  
 Hopkins, John Matthews, 159  
 Horpoll, John, 427, 428  
 Horne, John, 358  
 House, John, 139  
 Howe, Gobeon, 213  
     " Henry, 213  
 Howes, John, 144  
 Hudson, Richard, 429  
 Hugh, son of Robert, 16, 17  
     " Earl, 1, 4  
     " Earl of Stafford, 71, 368  
 Humphrey, Thomas, 121  
 Humphrey, Henry, 312, 317, 334, 353, 378,  
     384, 385, 386, 389  
 Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, 88, 372  
     " " Gloucester, 286, 288  
 Hunt, Agnes, 242, 243  
     " Thomas, 200, 242, 243, 267, 302,  
     309, 312, 387, 402  
 Huntington, Earl of, 4  
 Huntingdon, William of, 213  
 Illyngworth, Richard, 381  
 Inganis, Richard, 2, 5  
     " William, 2, 5  
 Isabel, Queen, 64, 65  
 Ives, Robert, 144  
 James, Earl of Wiltshire, 88, 372  
 Janes, John, 115  
 Jeffery, Moses, 184  
 Jeyes, John, 176  
     " Mr., 153  
 Joseyn, 213  
 John, Earl of Shrewsbury, 88, 372  
     " King of Castile and Leon, 70, 368  
     " the Clerk, 17  
     " Viscount of Beaumont, 88, 372  
 Johnson, John, 160  
     " Richard, 426, 427, 428  
 Jones, James, 160  
     " William, 192, 194  
 Jonnes, Lawrence, 406  
 Jordan, Bartholomewe, 213  
     " Philip, 213  
     " " son of, 18, 19, 20  
 Judith, Countess, 1, 4, 5, 6

Kelham, 4, 6  
 Kendale, Thomas, 199, 200  
 Kent, Earl of, 40  
 Kimbold, William, 436  
 King, James, 439  
     " John, 144  
     " Richard, 249  
     " William, 159  
 Knyghtley, Richard, 267  
 Knut, Nicholas, 144  
 Lacep, Thomas, 144  
 Lacy Henry de, 57, 367  
 Lancaster, Humphrey de, 286, 288  
 Lancum, 195  
 Lane, John, 144  
 Lanfranc, 3  
 Launden, John, 361  
 Law, Edmund Francis, 192, 194  
 Lawrence, 406  
     " Thomas, 428  
 Lee, Henry, 141, 144, 145, 146  
 Lefstan, 2, 6  
 Leicester, Earl of, 360  
     " Robert de, 23  
     " " Earl of, 31, 33, 453  
 Leland, 57  
 Leofwinus, 3  
 Levi, Barnard, 160  
 Lewinus, 3  
 Lewis, King of France, 16  
 Leycestr<sup>r</sup>, Robert of, 213  
 Leycettur, John, 267  
 Lexan Geoffrey de, 47, 366  
 Lidoyus, Fulco de, 11  
 Lincoln, Canons of, 11  
     " Henry, Bishop of, 67  
     " Oliver, Bishop of, 340  
 Linnell, James, 160  
 Liz, Simon de St., 4, 8  
 Lodelowe, William de, 65  
 Londham, John, 245  
 London, Robert, Bishop of, 70, 368  
 Long, Robert, 333  
 Longwile, John, 235  
 Lovell, 195  
     " Philip, 48, 366  
     " Salathiel, 436  
 Lowdeham, John, 72  
 Lowres, Richard, 340  
 Lucas, Martin, 151, 159  
 Lucy Richard de, 16  
 Lungevill, Johannes de, 454  
 Luples, 4  
 Luthe, Thomas de, 61, 62  
 Lycester, Gilbert, 288, 289, 290  
 Lilly, John, 265, 267, 279, 282  
 Lynde, William, 97, 312  
 Lyon, Charles, 144  
 Main, William, son of, 20  
 Mall, Willm., 293  
 Manchester, Edward, Earl of, 140  
 Manfield, Moses Philip, 194  
 Manley, Laurence, 334, 340, 426  
 Mansell, John, 48, 366  
 Marchall, John, 206, 399, 400, 401  
 Margaret of London, 24  
     " Princess, 16  
     " Queen, 88  
 Markham, John, 152, 153, 154  
 Marrott, Richard, 150  
 Marshall, John, 192  
     " Henry, 192, 194  
     " William, 159, 160  
 Martin, Henry, 194  
     " Samuel, 144  
     " Thomas, 130  
 Mary, Queen, 119, 149  
 Matilda, 4  
 Maud, 13  
 Maunsell, Edward, 150  
 Maur, Nicholas de, Saint, 48  
 Mf'all, Henri, 340  
 Meacock, Richard, 159  
 Meinfelin, Ralph, son of, 23, 24  
 Merton, Walter de, 48, 366  
 Mey, William, 385  
 Meye, Richard, 356  
 Michael, de la Pole, 71, 368  
 Miller, James, 153, 159  
 Mills, Richard, 153, 159  
     " William, 194  
 Milly, William, 312, 387  
 Mobbs, Henry, 192  
 Molins, Adam, 80  
 Montacute, John de, 71, 368  
 Montague, Edward, 140  
 Montfort, Lord Simon de, 356, 359, 360  
     " Simon de, 49  
 Moore, Stewart A, 39  
 Morgan, Charles, 440  
 Morton, 95  
 Mortain, Robert, Earl of, 1, 4  
 Morwade, Robert, 384  
 Mose, Robert, 307, 309, 386  
 Motte, John, 340, 406, 425, 426  
     " Simon, 204, 206  
 Mouter, Robert, 76  
 Mulso, Thomas, 387  
 Muscote, William, 385  
 Myners, Abraham, 128  
 Myryell, Richard, 429  
 Naylor, 88  
 Neale, Henry, 341, 427  
 Nell, John, 213  
 Nevill, Alan de, 21  
 Neville, Lady Anne, 79  
 Newcome, John, 159  
 Newby, Marmaduke, 187  
 Nicholas, Ralph, son of, 40, 45  
 Norfolk, Thomas, Earl of, 67  
 Norman, Robert, 184  
     " James Berridge, 194

Northampton, Earl of, 165, 166, 168  
 Northev, Sir Edward, 143  
 Northumberland, Henry, Earl of, 109  
 Norwich, John, Bishop of, 26, 28  
     " Ralph de, 35  
     " Sir Roger, 143  
  
 Odell, John, 185  
     " William, 160, 185  
 Oldham, William, 427, 428  
 Orme, John, 150  
 Osborn, George, 151, 153, 159  
     " Francis, 153  
     " Francis, 160  
 Osmond, Henry, 144  
 Othoboni, 453  
 Owen, David, 421  
 Oxford, John of, 28  
     " John, Earl of, 109  
  
 Packhurst, John, 150  
 Packingham, Lambert de, 61, 62  
 Pain, William, 159, 160  
 Paine, Whitmill, 160  
 Pamplion, John, 386  
 Parker, Francis, 192, 194  
     " Thomas, 334  
 Parr, Bartholomew, 144  
 Paryn, William, 293, 300, 309  
 Passenham, Ralph, 361  
 Pattishall, Wouter of, 235, 391  
 Peach, Edward, 185  
     " George, 187  
 Peake, John, 144  
 Peck, John, 402  
 Peeche, John, 26, 29, 291  
 Peirce, William John, 192  
 Pemberton, Thomas, 333  
 Pembroke, William, Earl of, 31, 33, 35  
 Penny, Thomas, 293, 333  
 Peny, John, 288  
 Pente, Henry de, 35  
 Percival, Honble. Spencer, 152, 154, 165,  
     168  
 Pervyn, John, 293, 333, 353  
 Perry, Pickering Phipps, 192, 194  
 Peter, 7, 8  
     " Geoffrey, son of, 21-24  
 Peterborough, Abbot of, 3  
     " Henry, Earl of, 145  
 Pettit, William, 144  
 Feverel, William, 2, 5  
 Phillips, William, 90  
 Phipps, John, 192, 194  
 Pickmer, Francis, 139  
 Pigeon, Richard, 144  
     " John, 144  
 Pirye, William, 245  
 Pisscelewe, William, 213  
 Plantaganet, Blanche, 68  
 Plompton, Hewe of, 213  
 Pole, Michael de la, 71  
  
 Pomfret, Earl of, 439, 443  
 Pope, Thomas, 267  
 Porte, Ermald de la, 213  
 Potter, Nathaniel, 144  
 Preston, Edmund, 199  
 Prestwick, William, 288  
 Pudsey, Hugh, 28  
 Pywell, William, 439  
  
 Radcliffe, Thomas de, 61, 62  
 Radulph, William, 452  
 Raimond, William, son of, 19  
 Rain, William, 20  
 Rainbudeurt, Wido de, 2, 5  
 Rainsford, George, 128, 130  
 Ralph, 2, 5  
 Ramb, Nycolas, 340  
 Ramsey, Abbot of, 1, 3  
 Randall, Henry Edward, 194  
 Rands, John, 144  
     " Richard, 144  
 Ratdmyt, Frances, 144  
 Rawlyns, Richard, 248  
 Raymond, William, son of, 21  
 Rede, Richard, 118  
 Regin, son of Urli, 15  
 Remund, Reginald, son of, 23, 24  
 Remund, William, son of, 20-24  
 Revell, Robert, 7, 8  
 Reymond, William, 213  
     " Adam, 213  
     " Reynald, 213  
 Richard, 4  
     " 25, 26, 28, 29  
     " the Second, 260, 264  
     " Earl of Arundel, 71, 368  
 Robba, 15  
 Robert, 4  
 Roberts, William, 192  
 Redbert, Walter, son of, 26, 28  
 Roddis, Robert, 160  
 Roger, Tyband, 213  
     " Henry, 61, 62, 63, 235, 391  
 Roges, John, 148  
     " Will, 148  
 Roman, Arcald de, Saint, 45  
 Romilly, C. 194  
 Rovis, Robert, 355  
 Rows, William of the, 213  
 Russhden, William, sen., 237, 274, 277  
     " " jun., 277  
 Rygby, Michael, 90  
 Ryvel, John, 361  
  
 Saint Maur, Nicholas de, 48, 366  
 Sale, Thome, 274  
 Salisbury, Simon, Bishop of 57, 367  
     " William, Bishop of, 79  
     " Hubert, Bishop of, 26, 28  
     " Richard, Bishop of, 40  
     " " Earl of 79  
     " William, Earl of, 31, 33, 80

Saloman, Hugh, 17  
 Samuel the Jew, 24  
 Sanders, Robert, 144  
 Sawin, Robert, son of, 8-24  
     " " grandson of, 23 24  
     " Hugh, grandson of, 16-22  
 Saxby, John, 293, 329, 331, 333, 353, 354,  
     425, 426  
     Thomas, 309  
 Saye, John, 334, 353  
 Scofield, John, 160  
 Scott, 185  
 Scots, William, King of, 452  
 Scriven, Richard, 160  
     Thomas, 159  
 Scrivener, Thomas, 144  
 Serop, Geoffrey le, 61, 62  
 Segary, John, 159  
 Segrave, Hugh de, 71, 368  
 Selby, Abbot of, 1, 4  
 Sergeant, Thomas, 90  
 Sergeant, Thomas, 144  
 Shadwick, Thomas, 144  
 Sharp, Hugh, 160  
     Thomas, 192  
 Shaw, Francis, 159  
 Shefford, Robard, 334, 353  
 Shefforde, William, 263, 264  
 Shepard, Thomas, 192, 194  
 Sherman, Bury, 355  
 Shippsey, Thomas, 426  
 Short, Samuel, 144  
 Shrewsbury, John, 262  
 Shrewsbury, John, Earl of, 80, 88  
 Shrovesbury, John, 262  
 Simon, son of Peter, 12, 15.  
 Simons, Samuel, 185  
 Siward, 4.  
 Skalford, Thomas de, 63  
 Slynde, William, 300  
 Smith, Charles, 159  
     John, 331  
     Thomas, 159  
 Smyth, John, 334, 353  
 Solle, John, 334, 429  
 Sossyndale, William, 384  
 Sotell, William, 235, 391  
 Spencer, William, 138  
 Spenser, Adam the, 213  
 Spicer, Simon, 258  
 Sprig, John, 243, 275  
 Spristowe, John 307, 309, 362  
 Stafford, Hugh, Earl of, 71  
 Stanley, Thomas, Lord, 109  
 Stanley, Thomas de, 71  
 Stanton, Daniel, 194  
 Staunford, Thomas, 235, 391  
 Stedman, James, 436  
 Stevenson, Joshua, 160  
 Stockburn, Henry Lenton, 187  
 Stokton, William, 245  
 Stones, Henry, 277  
 Stotisbury, Thomas, 361  
 Stratton, John of, 235, 391

Stretton, Thomas, 407  
 Strong, William, 192  
 Styles, Robert, 144  
 Suzin, 2, 6  
 Suerendum, 93  
 Suffolk, William, Marquis of, 79  
 Sultzzer, John, 439  
 Surrey, John, Earl of, 67  
 Sussex, Earl of, 28  
 Sutton, Dean Oliver, 340  
     Jaines, 159  
     Thomas, 249, 361  
     William, 160  
 Swan, Edmund, 384  
 Swerendon, 372  
 Syxson, Richard, 425

Tame, James de 26, 29  
 Tarry, William, 160  
 Tatynton, Peter de, 57, 367  
 Taylor, Thomas, 160  
 Tebbutt, George Minards, 194  
 Thiard, Henry, son of, 18  
 Thomas, Robert, 355  
     William, 159  
 Thompson, Aaron, 160  
 Thomson, William, 429  
 Thorneeton, Thomas, 139  
 Thorneburgh, Edward, 90  
 Thorold, 3  
 Thorp, Roger, 90  
 Throkmarston, George M., 116  
 Thurstan, 4  
 Tichmerch, William de, 63  
 Tochi, 5  
 Todeni, Robert de, 2, 4, 6  
 Tomkins, Laurence, 139  
 Tompson, William, 159  
 Tonebridge, Richard de, 4  
 Toni, Ralph de, 4  
 Trasler, William, 160  
     Robert, 159, 160  
 Treslove, Thomas, 160  
     Samuel, 159  
 Trustone, Robert, 213  
 Trymes, Trevor, 148  
 Tryon, John, 150  
 Tunstall, Sir Richard, 88, 372  
 Turner, Richard, 192  
 Turbold, 3  
 Twinden, John, 144  
 Tyssington, Thomas, 361

Valbadon, Ausfrid de, 2, 6  
 Valence, William de, 47, 48, 366  
 Vaughan, William, 139  
 Verife, William, 391

Wahull, Walter de, 5  
 Waidour, Johannes le, 454  
 Wake, Thomas, 68  
     John, 68

Wake, Hereward the, 3  
 Waleran, 17  
 Waleys, John, 90  
 Walgier, Willm, 427  
 Walker, John, 293, 333  
 Walsham, Robtum, 372  
 Walter, 3  
 Waltheof, 4  
 Waltham, 71  
 Ward, Richard, 144  
     Thomas, 149, 150, 151, 436  
 Warrene, Earl Hammeline de, 26, 28, 40  
 Warnes, John, 144  
 Warner, John, 144  
 Warwick, Guy, Earl of, 57, 68, 367  
     Hugh, Earl of, 45  
     John, " 45  
     Margaret, Countess of, 45  
     Thomas, 361  
 Washyngton, Laurence, 350, 427  
 Water, John, 406  
 Waterworks Co., Northampton, 444, 446  
 Wattes, John, 202, 293, 333, 334, 353, 384,  
     385, 386  
 Watts, Rev. John, 184  
     Henry, 144  
 Waurin, Jean de, 80  
 Wauterisone, Water, 213  
 Waydourer, Geffrey, 213,  
     Richard, 213  
 Weecles, William, 144  
 Welis, Simon, Archdeacon of, 31, 33  
 Wellis, John, 241, 361  
     Thomas, 203  
 Wemmes, Richard, 247, 273, 382  
 Wemmings, Richard, 361  
 Wennys, Richard, 247  
 Wetherell, James, 192  
 Westley, Thomas, 160  
 Wheeler, Henry, 100  
 Whelar, Richard, 333  
 Whiston, Jonathan, 139, 144  
 Whitcok, William, 386, 387  
 White, Richard, 144  
     Robert, 144

Whitfelde, Willm, 333  
 Whitworth, Charles, 185  
 Wickens, John, 153  
 Widvile, Hugh de, 2, 6  
 Wilby, Richard, 361  
 Wilkinson, Richard, 340, 351, 427  
     Roger, 128  
 William I., 1, 3, 4, 5, 28  
     III., King, 140  
 Williams, Willam, 192, 194  
 Willoughby, John, 144  
     Robert, 109  
 Willoughby, Thomas, 436  
 Wilmot, 183  
 Wiltshire, James, Earl of, 88  
 Winchester, Peter, Bishop of, 35  
     William, Bishop of, 70, 88,  
     108, 172  
     John, Bishop of, 57, 367  
     Stephen, Bishop of, 118  
     Archdeacon of, 28  
 Winemar, 2, 5, 6  
 Wirce, Goisfrid de, 2, 5  
     Geoffrey de, 5  
 Wiseman, Thomas, 362  
 Wodefall, Hugh, 386  
 Woodward, Thoms, 425  
 Wood, Edward, 159  
 Wright, John, 160  
 Wygressone Ingram, 213  
 Wykeham, William of, 70  
 Wyleokes, John, 384, 388  
 Wytor, Simon, 213

Yelverton, Christopher, 123, 129  
     Sir Henry, 127, 129, 130, 137  
 Yong, 114, 136  
 York, Edmund, Earl of, 71  
     Henry, Duke of, 109  
     Richard, Duke of, 136  
     Thomas, Archbishop of, 108  
     William, Archbishop of, 88, 372

## LIST OF PLACES.

Abbot's Meadow, 120  
 Abington, 444  
     Street, 439  
 All Saints, Northampton, 2, 6, 281, 258  
     Churchyard, 254, 437, 445  
 Auckland, 67  
     Castle, 57  
 Auxerre, 4

Barnwell Castle, 439  
 Bedford, 3

Bedford Castle, 34  
 Bedfordshire, 4, 5, 407  
 Belvoir, 4  
 Bernard Castle, 57  
 Berwardstrete, 287  
 Billing Bridge, 222  
 Black Friars, 291, 330  
 Bowbell, 252  
 Brackley, 37, 145, 222  
 Bridge Street, 281, 439  
 Brigstock, 18  
 Brittany, Little, 5

Bukbroke, 399, 400  
 Burton Overy, 439  
 Bury Saint Edmunds, 3

Cambridge, 3, 105  
 Canterbury, 18, 28, 57, 67, 70, 79  
     Cathedral, 87, 108  
     Caunterbury, 425  
     Carshalton, 448  
     Carlisle, 90  
     Castile Albert, 413  
     Castle, Northampton, 6, 7, 8, 16, 19  
     Cawood, 108  
     Charlton, 165  
     Chastillion, 80  
     Chester, 4  
     Chingeshala, Meadow of, 17, 19-24  
         23, 24  
     Church of All Saints, 252, 281, 358  
         " St. Giles, 241, 243, 247, 249,  
         258, 261, 262, 264, 275, 298, 302, 307  
 Clipston, 66  
 Clyst, 70  
 Collingtree, 5  
 Colly Weston, 80  
 Cooknoe, 448  
 Cook's Quarter, 254  
 Cosgrove, 5  
 Coton, 403  
     " Brook, 447  
 Cotton End, 125, 126, 127, 184, 185, 334,  
     438, 439, 442, 444  
 County Hall, 440  
     " Hospital, 440  
 Coutance, 1, 3, 4  
 Coventry, 3, 312  
 Cow Meadow, 446

Dallington, 126, 444  
 Daventry, 439  
 Denis, St., 3  
 Derbyshire, 5  
 Derngate, 19  
 Donypas, 61  
 Drapery, 439, 445  
 Drayton, 145  
 Durham, 28, 40, 67  
 Duston, 120, 126, 267, 268, 444

East Coton, 402  
 Easton Mauduit, 123, 129  
 Ecton, 123, 224, 448  
 Edmunds, Saint, End, 334  
 Ednigton, 79  
 Elkington, 5  
 Elmstow, 4  
 Est yate, 287  
 Eton, 79  
 Evesham, 3, 49  
 Exeter, 70

Far Cotton, 444  
 Fescamp, 3  
 Festiniog, 448  
 Florence, 413  
 Fotheringhay Castle, 88  
 Friars Preachers, 291, 330

Geddington, 17  
 General Infirmary, 440  
 Genoa, 413  
 George Inn, 440  
     Row, 439  
 Ghent, 67  
 Glastohbury, 40  
 Gloucester, 435  
 Gloucestershire, 3  
 Gold Street, 439  
 Grafton Regis, 71  
 Grey Friars, 356, 359  
 Guildhall, 260, 276, 288, 309, 312, 333,  
     382, 388, 389, 442  
     Chamber of, London, 29  
 Guyhalde, 274, 293, 351, 353  
 Gylde Hall, 305

Halifax, 447  
 Hall of Northampton, 20  
 Hardingshorne, 126, 184, 269, 339, 402,  
     442, 444  
 Harrow, 165  
 Haversham, 242  
 Hendle, 70  
 Hertford, 3  
 Higham Ferrers, 14, 18, 145  
 Holy Land, 28  
 Horse Market, 291, 330  
 Hospital of S. Thomas, 35  
 Huntingdon, 3, 4, 17

Italy, 413

James, Saint, 5  
 Joppa, 35

Kenilworth, 64  
 Kingshale, Meadow of, 16, 18, 22  
 Kingston-on-Thames, 90  
 Kingsthorpe, 402, 444  
 Kyngeswellstrete, 287

Leicester, 63, 92, 439  
 Leicestershire, 3  
 Lenton, 5  
 Leonard, St., Hospital of, 65  
 Lichborough, 3  
 Lincoln, 3, 67, 362  
     " Cathedral, 340  
     Lincoln's Inn, 40  
 Lombardy, 413  
 London, 17, 28, 90, 252

London, City of, 25, 27, 29, 195, 204  
 Luffield Priory, 33

Macclesfield, 448  
 Maidstone, 70, 79, 205, 206  
 Maidwell, 4  
 Manche, 3  
 Market Hill, 439, 437  
 Mary, St Omerie, 35  
 Mayfield, 67  
 Mervers' Row, 254, 439, 445  
 Merket Place, 286, 287  
 Milan, 413  
 Milford, 447  
 Milton, 5  
 Mint at Northampton, 19  
 Mortain, 1, 4

Nine, or Nen, 222, 258, 440, 442  
 Nobottle Grove, 126  
 Norfolk, 3  
 Normandy, 3  
 Northampton, 1. Et seq.  
     Fields, 439, 442  
 Northamptonshire, 3, 24. Et seq.  
 Northumberland, 428  
 North End, 439  
     Yate, 287  
 Nothingham, 435  
 Nottingham, 66, 100  
 Nottinghamshire, 5  
 Nowhall, 185

Old, 260  
     Yee, 267, 268  
 Ossett, 448  
 Oxford, 67, 70

Paston, 80  
 Paul's, St., London, 70  
 Peacock Hotel, 152, 154  
 Peter, Saint, Northampton, 2, 6  
 Peterborough, 3  
 Plompton, 213  
 Poitiers, 29  
 Portsmouth, 207  
 Portland, 2, 6  
 Priory, St. Andrew's, 8

Queenborough, 70

Radston, 64  
 Ramsey, 3  
 Ravensthorpe Brook, 447  
 Ravensthorpe Reservoir, 447  
 Richmond (Surrey), 448  
 Rochdale, 447  
 Rockingham, 68, 79  
     Castle, 286  
 Rothersthorpe, 5

Rothwell, 63  
 Rugby, 126

Saint Albans, 4  
     Andrew's Parish, 439  
     Priory, 8  
     Giles' Churchyard, 437  
     Parish of, 184, 185, 439  
     Square, 439  
     Street, 287, 439, 440  
     James', 268  
     End, 125, 126, 127, 334, 444  
     John, Baptist Hospital of, 121, 281  
     John's Hospital, 121  
     Lawrence's Parish, 439  
     Leonard, Hospital of, 05, 230, 402,  
         403  
     Leonard's, 339  
     Mary le Bow, Church of, Cheapside,  
         London, 252  
     Sepulchre's Parish, 439

Salcey, 68  
 Salisbury, 40  
 Sarum, New, 61  
 Schools at Northampton, 17  
 Saint Martin Strete, 287  
     Mary Strete, 287  
 Selby, 1, 4  
 Sepulchre, Holy, Church of the, 9, 91  
 Sever, St., 4  
 Seynt Thomas Brygge, 287  
 Sheep Street, 439  
 Shenee, Manor of, 207  
 Sherwood, 66  
 Silveston, 18  
 Silverston, 43  
 Slapton 222  
 Slipton, or Slapton, 62, 63  
 South Bridge, 230, 403, 437, 438  
 Southwell, 88  
 Staffordshire, 4  
 Stanford, 4  
 Stanwick, 35  
 Stoke Bruerne, 6  
 Stratford-on-Avon, 67  
 Suffolk, 3  
 Sutton, 80  
 Swynwellstrete, 287  
 Syresham, 222

Teeton Brook, 447  
 Tenterden, 447  
 Thornton, 90  
 Towcester, 222, 312  
 Tower Hill, 312  
     of Northampton, 19, 20  
 Trent, Bridge over, 66  
 Tutbury, 4

Venice, 413

Wakefield Union, District of the, 448  
Walton, 90  
Warwickshire, 3  
Waterloo House, 254  
Waynflete, 88  
Welford, 5  
Wells Cathedral, 40  
" Palace at, 79  
Werburgh, St., 4  
West Bridge, 267, 268, 437  
" Cotton, 125, 126, 127  
" Holmes, 120  
Weste Yate, 287  
Westminster, 35, 40, 48, 54, 55, 61, 65,  
68, 71, 74, 76, 80, etc.  
Whitchurch, 406  
White Friars, 356, 359  
Whittlebury, 68  
Whiston, 448  
Wigan, 447  
Winchester, 35, 57, 70, 88  
" Cathedral, 108  
" College, 57  
Windsor, 31, 33, 45, 50, 52, 70, 109  
Wood Hill, 437, 438, 439  
Woodstock, 17  
Worcestershire, 3  
Wymersley, 126  
Wyndesfor, Caftell, 204  
Yethampstead, 70  
York, 61, 90  
Yorkshire, 4







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